K O S

KENT ON SUNDAY

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INSIDE SPORT THIS WEEK

UNREST AT ST LAWRENCE

Kent trio JAMES TREDWELL, DARREN STEVENS and MARTIN VAN JAARSVELD on the impact felt after the departure of Amjad Khan

BOOZE PUTS MORE OF US IN HOSPITAL

Figures show drink-related admissions have rocketed

By **MARIJKE COX**

THE number of people being admitted to Kent's hospitals as a result of alcohol has risen year on year since 2005, new figures have revealed.

The 2010 Local Alcohol Profiles report showed that in the year ending March, 2009, there were 26,334 booze-related admissions in Kent and Medway – almost 10,000 more cases than five years ago.

They included cases of mental and behavioural disorders, cardiac problems, falls, assaults, epilepsy and self-harm, all linked to alcohol consumption.

A breakdown of figures showed NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent had 13,336 alcohol-related admissions in 2008-09 – 11 per cent up from the previous year. West Kent saw 9,015 admissions – a 10 per cent rise – and Medway saw 3,983 – a six per cent increase since 2007-08.

Nationally, the number of people being taken to hospital due to alcohol has risen by 65 per cent in the past five years to 954,469. The English average increase per strategic health authority was nine per cent in 2008-9.

Professor Mark Bellis, director of the North West Public Health Observatory, which prepared the figures, said the English death toll from alcohol now exceeds 15,500 every year.

He said: "It is time to recognise we are not a population of responsible drinkers with just a handful of irresponsible individuals ruining it for others.

Violent crime

"Over one-in-four drinkers exceed weekly limits according to national surveys and alcohol sales figures suggest the number is much higher."

The study contained 24 alcohol-related indicators for each NHS trust, including binge-drinking, hospital admissions, deaths and treatment for alcohol misuse.

Despite the continuing rise in hospital admissions, the research showed that at Kent's three NHS trusts almost all of the 24 measures looked at by the North West Public Health Observatory were "significantly better" than the national average. Broken down into districts, the indicators also revealed better than average results.

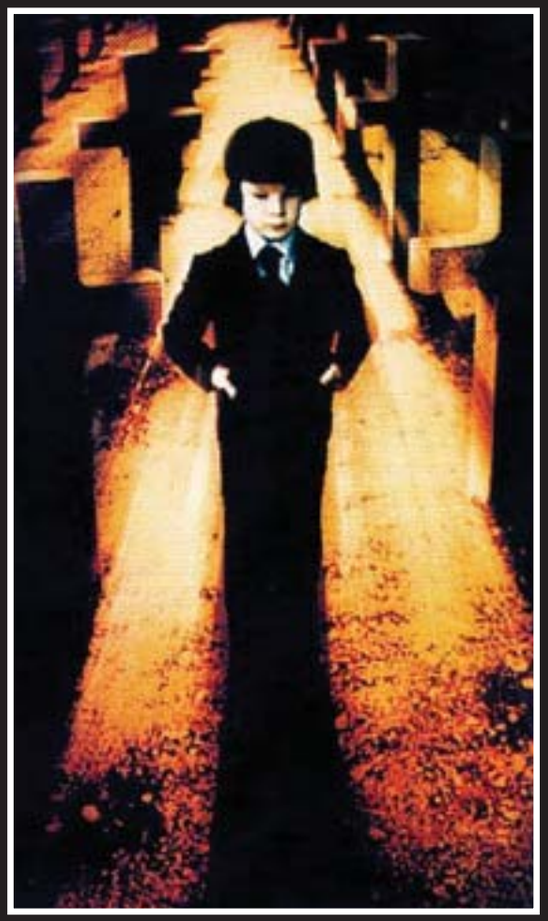
The exception was Thanet – which has some of the most deprived wards in the county and a life-expectancy 17 years less than those in some other parts of Kent – where most indicators, including alcohol-related violent crime and alcohol-linked deaths, were significantly worse than the national average.

Stephen Cocharne, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's public health specialist, said although the overall figures for alcohol-related health problems showed improvement in east Kent compared to the rest of the UK, there were still some local 'hot spots' where alcohol misuse continued to pose problems.

He said: "We are working in partnership with Kent County Council, GPs, East Kent Hospitals University Foundation NHS Trust and other agencies, including Kent Police and Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team to address these concerns."

The Trust has launched a project

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



666's a good Omen for Damien actor

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

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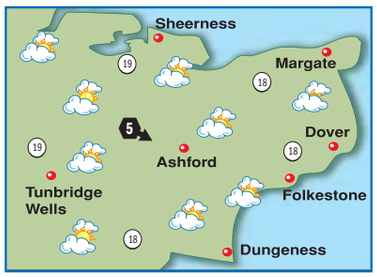
Kent today



TODAY: A few mist patches at first, then sunny spells and variable cloud. East Kent may have more extensive cloud at times, with a few showers. Light winds. Max temp 18-20C (64-68F). **TONIGHT:** Any lingering showers in the east will soon ease. Dry with clear spells. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	17	63	London	fair	20	68
Belfast	cloudy	17	63	Liverpool	fair	17	63
Birmingham	fair	18	64	Manchester	fair	18	64
B'mouth	fair	20	68	Newcastle	fair	18	64
Bristol	sun	19	66	Norwich	fair	18	64
Cardiff	fair	18	64	Oxford	fair	19	66
Cork	cloudy	17	63	Southsea	sun	21	70
Edinburgh	fair	18	64	S'hampton	fair	19	66
Glasgow	cloudy	16	61	Southport	fair	17	63
Isle of Man	sun	16	61	Swansea	fair	18	64
Leeds	fair	17	63	Torquay	fair	18	64

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.25am	Sunset	7.17pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	12.08pm	Moonset	8.34pm	7.17pm to 6.26am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	02.04	6.8	14.23	7.0	02.45	6.6	15.05	6.7
Margate	03.13	4.8	15.25	5.1	03.54	4.7	16.08	4.9
St Mary's	07.57	5.8	20.17	5.6	08.38	5.4	20.59	5.2

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 20C min11C

tuesday A few showers. max 19C min 10C

wednesday Sunny spells. max 18C min 9C

thursday Isolated showers. max 18C min 8C

friday A few showers. max 19C min 9C

saturday A few showers. max 18C min 9C

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Awareness key to tackling binge drinking

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

called House which is aimed at young people and also funds groups supporting people suffering from alcohol addiction.

Unlike Thanet, the Sevenoaks district showed some of the lowest levels of overall booze-related harm.

Binge drinking – those who drink more than twice the recommended daily amount in one session – was significantly lower than the regional average.

Linda Prickett, public health specialist at NHS West Kent, said the Trust was pleased to be doing better than other areas of the country.

"However, we must not be complacent – we are concerned about the amount many people in west Kent are drinking," she said. "Over 24 per cent of people in west Kent drink in a way that will eventually damage their health.

"We must continue to raise awareness of what this means. Drinking more than two bottles of wine a week if you're a woman, or more than two pints of lager most days if you're a man, can damage your heart, liver and brain and increase your chances of getting cancer."

As well as work with the Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team and local councils, services have been introduced to support existing clinics, including counselling, family therapy interventions and community detoxification.

NHS Medway also bettered the national average despite the rise in NHS admissions, but health bosses stressed the need to continue working to drive down figures.

Dr Alison Barnett, director of public health for Medway, said: "I'm pleased that in many areas, such as underage drinking and hospital admissions caused by alcohol, the picture in Medway is better than the national average.

"However, alcohol continues to have a significant impact on the health of Medway's residents and whilst we have made an impact on the rate of increase, alcohol hospital admissions do continue to rise."

Quango replaced by a union with Essex

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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COUNTY Hall leader Paul Carter has denied Government ministers pressured him into forming a new business and investment partnership with Essex County Council.

Last June Chancellor George Osborne announced that as part of his emergency Budget all Regional Development Agencies – including the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) – would be scrapped and replaced by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

The news was welcomed at the time by Cllr Carter, who immediately set about gathering support among the business community for a new group dedicated to securing investment for Kent and Medway.

But this week KCC announced plans to instead form a larger LEP with Essex, amid speculation that Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles was leaning on the two authorities to set an example to others throughout the country.

"Eric phoned me halfway through my holiday, as did (Business Secretary) Vince Cable, and suggested that people weren't thinking big enough," admitted Cllr Carter.

"It didn't take much persuading once I'd sat down and thought about the common goals and aspirations we share with Essex, and what we both stand to gain by joining forces.

"The economies of both counties are virtually identical and it makes good business sense to share our expertise. If it didn't then I wouldn't support the idea.

"It also has the support of the business community in Kent. Their words to me were that this is a no-brainer, don't mess around and just get on with it, and that's exactly what we've done."

CALL: Eric Pickles

Cllr Carter has long opposed the existence of Seeda, commenting in previous interviews that he did not believe somebody "sitting in an office in Guildford" was best-placed to make decisions about investment in Kent.

Should it win Government approval, the Kent-Essex LEP will be responsible for the economic development of an area bigger than 13 European countries and with a combined population of 3.4 million.

The region is also home to nearly 115,000 companies supporting 1.3 million jobs and contributing £55 billion to the national economy every year.

It could be up and running by April, 2011.

However, despite losing support from KCC, Medway Council has submitted its own proposals for a Kent and Medway LEP while Dartford, Gravesham and Bexley councils are also hoping to form their own breakaway alliance.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said the plans were being supported by most district councils in north and west Kent. He added: "I have full confidence that this historic and famous county has the potential to become the economic powerhouse of the South East.

"Any other options being suggested for an LEP that includes areas outside of Kent will only hamper Kent's economic progress in these difficult times."

Early indications are that the proposed partnership will be chaired by an independent business leader with a board consisting of up to 30 members representing the various district councils in Kent and Essex.

Goals already outlined by Cllr Carter include new development in the Thames Gateway region, the regeneration of coastal towns and the construction of a third Thames crossing to reduce congestion at Dartford.

Big ticket

It has also been suggested that the new LEP could take over the running of the Dartford crossing, with the possibility of the tolls being reduced in price or scrapped altogether.

"These are big ticket items which, if we get it right, can lead to employment for a lot of people," said Cllr Carter.

"Just think of what a third Thames crossing could do for the region. There's a massive amount of traffic that comes through Kent and has to use the Dartford crossing, and the whole thing is gridlocked as a result.

"If we want to deliver the growth agenda then we need to put in the necessary infrastructure first."

• ***See Business Week for more reaction to the LEP proposals.***

Funk legend Hamish's showbiz pals are ready to rock his pub micro-festival

From Average to Oaresome

By **MARIJKE COX**
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HE MAY have swapped the international stage for a pub in Kent, but Average White Band's Hamish Stuart is keeping the funk alive with help from his showbiz pals.

The legendary guitarist and singer, who toured as part of Sir Paul McCartney's band in the 1980s and took to the stage with Ringo Starr last year, is hosting the mOare Music festival in the back garden of his pub, the Three Mariners, in Oare, near Faversham, which he took over in 2007.

SOULFUL: Singer Paul Young had a string of chart hits in the 1980s as a solo artist

BIG STAGE: Hamish with Paul McCartney

And joining him for the festivities this weekend will be a host of legends Stuart has worked with during his long career as a musician and record producer.

Mike Scott from The Waterboys, singer Paul Young and pianist and vocalist Lianne Carroll, who has worked with artists including Sir Paul McCartney and Gerry Rafferty, will be performing alongside Stuart's house band, Jimjam. Chris Difford – a member of Squeeze and a songwriter for artists ranging from Elton John to Jools Holland – and Fine Young Cannibal Roland Gift will be also be making appearances.

Stuart, 60, who penned classics such as Pick Up the Pieces and Let's Go Round Again, told KOS Media he was looking forward to getting back on stage.

"I haven't done much live music for the past six months as I've used all my free time recording a new album," he said. "I'm really looking forward to performing live. I've put a house band together which will play throughout the weekend and special guests will come up and perform with us."

Last year, Stuart was asked by drummer Ringo Starr to form part of the former Beatle's All-Starr Band in America.

It was the second time the ex-Average White Band man had performed as part of Ringo's annual tour.

Brilliant

He said: "It was great fun and Ringo was very easy to work with. It was almost like a paid holiday. The hardest part of it was the rehearsals – we worked about 12 long days – but then it was brilliant."

His own gig is on a much smaller scale with capacity for just 500, but in the three years it has run it has attracted big name artists such as Suggs from Madness and Pete Cox from pop band Go West.

Picture: ALAN LIGHT

ROLAND GIFT

"It's quite an intimate festival and the performers mingle with the crowd, unlike in the bigger ones," said Stuart.

"Last year the ambience was great. The way the garden is laid out is like an amphitheatre and people loved it."

And this year, along with the long list of diverse acts, Stuart's 19-year-old daughter, Emma, who is following in the footsteps of her dad, will be singing.

"Last year she did one song, but her confidence has grown and she'll be doing half a dozen this time," said Stuart. "I don't want to push her, but she loves to sing. I noticed when she was about 12 that she could really belt out a song."

He added: "I'm really looking forward to the weekend – let's just keep our fingers crossed for sunshine."

The festival starts at noon on Saturday and finishes at 9.30pm on Sunday. Tickets are £20 for a day pass or £35 for the whole weekend.

• ***Visit www.moaremusic.co.uk or call in at the Anchor pub, Faversham, or the Three Mariners, Oare, to buy tickets.***

To view, search 'Hamish' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Average White Band guitarist and session man to the stars Hamish Stuart perfoming with his band Jimjam at the Three Mariners

Alarm at high-speed 'wobble'

WORK is under way to correct a suspension problem with the county's new high-speed bullet trains.

Passengers have complained to Southeastern, the company which operates the service between Kent and St Pancras, that some of the trains "wobble".

The company said its staff, as well as onboard computer equipment, had also picked up 'excessive lateral movements'.

Now the 29 trains are being updated at the Ashford depot. Some passengers described the lateral motion as "alarming".

The trains, 10 of which have been converted already, are to be used as shuttles taking sports fans between the Olympic stadium at Stratford and St Pancras in just seven minutes. A Southeastern spokesman said: "Modifications are being made as we speak."

The trains are built by Japanese firm Hitachi, which is vying to replace all

Britain's intercity trains. Commuter Pam Millington, from Ashford, said: "You feel like you are on one of the old-fashioned trains it sways so much."

And student Nicki Carpenter, from Canterbury, said: It's quite disconcerting because it doesn't feel particularly safe."

Southeastern stressed none of the trains had been taken out of service and all the work had been routine. The spokesman said: "Ten have been done and the rest will be completed soon. This has never been a safety issue – it is about comfort. The number of services and the speed has not changed. It has not affected normal service in any way."

Watchdog warning

CHILDREN are at risk of harm due to inadequate and late assessments by Kent County Council's social services department, warns Ofsted.

The watchdog carried out an unannounced inspection last month and has told the authority to address staffing and management issues.

A KCC spokesman said the shortfall in social workers was a national problem, but it was committed to ensuring good outcomes for all its children.

He added: "We will continue to support the work of our social care teams and partner agencies to address the very real pressures they are under."

Hacking publican

A PUB landlord is the latest ex-journalist to find himself in the middle of the News of the World telephone hacking scandal.

Paul McMullan, who runs the Castle in Dover, is one of six former writers who claim Andy Coulson – who is now Prime Minister David Cameron's director of communications – knew his reporters were engaging in unlawful acts when he was editor of the national newspaper.

Mr McMullan told the Guardian that he personally commissioned private investigators to commit several hundred acts that could be regarded as illegal.

"How can Coulson possibly say he didn't know what was going on?" he added.

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Tory poll 'smear' on chief constable

ANGRY Labour councillors have blasted their Tory opponents for launching a "personal attack" on Chief Constable Ian Learmonth.

A Conservative leaflet posted through residents' doors in Medway claimed the county's most senior officer had "ignored the electorate, the police authority and his own rules" and accused Mr Learmonth of being solely responsible for the resignation of ex-councillor David Craggs.

The attack was launched following Mr Craggs' decision to quit Medway Council 13 days after winning the River ward by-election, claiming he did not realise it would mean giving up his role as a special constable.

However, Labour opponents have criticised the leaflet and blamed the Tories for not doing their homework before selecting the headteacher as their candidate.

Labour Cllr Paul Godwin said: "As a member of the Kent Police Authority I have witnessed the holding of Kent Police to account in a robust manner by a mixture of local councillors from the three main parties and independently appointed members.

RESIGNATION: David Craggs

"This has been done in a non-partisan way to ensure there is no party-political interference in policing.

"However, the recent antics of the Tories following the debacle of their candidate resigning his council seat just two weeks after the election has sunk to new depths."

A second by-election in just over a month is now on the cards in Medway, with Labour and the Lib Dems calling for the Conservatives to stump up the cash to pay for it.

However, the Tory leaflet says the cost should fall to Kent Police.

Labour's election agent Cllr Vince Maple said: "What the local Tories should be concentrating on is the impact of the 20 per cent cuts to the policing budget."

'Church bazaar' jibe at police volunteers plea

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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VOLUNTEER bobbies are being asked to help fight crime for free after Kent Police revealed it may slash 1,500 paid jobs due to government spending cuts.

Last week Chief Constable Ian Learmonth announced that, based on an estimated funding reduction of £53 million over the next four years, the force may have no option but to axe 1,000 civilian and 500 police posts.

But just days later, a recruitment drive was launched to encourage unpaid volunteers to give up their spare time and join the county's Special Constabulary, which already has 285 members on the beat.

ARRESTING DEVELOPMENT: Funding cuts may mean the loss of 500 police jobs

A force spokesman denied the two announcements were linked, but Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon said the timing "could not have been any worse".

"I think in government circles they probably are linked," he added.

"You can't have missed the fact that when politicians talk about cuts to the public sector, they also talk about the importance of volunteers and the Special Constabulary.

"I've got no problem with specials. They're fully-trained, hold the office of constable and have the same powers of arrest, but it becomes an issue when they are being used as replacements rather than extras.

"You can't run a police service as if it were a church bazaar.

Olympics

"As we approach these funding cuts we know we've got the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee coming up in 2012, and I think this recruitment drive is a way of getting people trained up in time."

After an initial training period, specials are required to carry out a minimum of 16 hours a month and an additional monthly training session of two hours.

Their duties include regular patrols with full-time police, tackling local problems and promoting health and safety.

Mr Pointon said the lack of available jobs at Kent Police may put many volunteers off coming forward.

He explained: "I think there's been a long-standing tradition of specials progressing into the regular force, but that's not going to happen for the foreseeable future.

"I can't see us recruiting for at least the next four years, and people will be put off because of that."

Kent Police will not know the full extent of the funding cuts until the Government publishes its Comprehensive Spending Review on October 20.

But Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas said the outcome would have no bearing on the specials recruitment drive.

He added: "It's not our intention to replace regular officers with officers from the Special Constabulary.

"The specials provide valuable assistance and back-up to regular officers and are an additional resource to complement them.

"With Kent Police currently not recruiting regular officers, the chance to join the Special Constabulary offers those who are interested in the police an opportunity to work alongside regulars to get valuable first-hand experience."

Ex Gills stars quit at cricket scandal

TWO former Gillingham FC favourites have quit their jobs after finding themselves caught up in the Pakistani cricket betting scandal.

Tim O'Shea and Neil Smith were manager and assistant manager respectively at Ryman Premier Division side Croydon Athletic – owned by the alleged match-fixer Mazhar Majeed.

But both resigned following allegations that Majeed had used the club to launder the millions of pounds he is accused of making from the scandal.

Irish defender O'Shea played more than 100 games for the Gills between 1989-92, while midfielder Smith made more than 200 appearances between 1991-97.

Both delivered farewell messages to Croydon's fans following the team's 3-1 home defeat to Concord Rangers last Saturday.

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P&O may lose jobs to cut costs

CROSS-CHANNEL ferry-operator P&O Ferries could axe up to 70 jobs as part of its latest cost-cutting measures.

The money-saving proposal will focus mainly on head-office operations in Dover, which employ 475 people.

The company has reviewed its organisational structures and spending to identify where costs can be reduced – P&O says this will allow it to be more competitive.

Up to 70 employees in the company's shore-based support functions could be axed.

P&O employees have also been told the company is reviewing the future of its final-salary pension-scheme arrangements.

Steve Todd, national maritime secretary at the RMT union, said: "This is another kick in the teeth for the Port of Dover.

"The threat of repeated job losses and reductions in service from the ferry operators and an ill-conceived privatisation plan could jeopardise the future of the port."

Consultations on the proposals will start on Monday.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Mask company puts a brave face on mental health issues

Picture: MARK DEAN

Picture: ALI RA

PERFECT PUPPETRY: Above, a scene from A Christmas Carol; right, Russell Dean, second from right, receives the Mobarak Award in Iran with members of Strangeface Theatre Company

USING the universal language of theatre, a Kent mask and puppet company has successfully crossed cultural divides.

In July, Tunbridge Wells-based company Strangeface was invited to perform at the 13th Mobarak International Puppet Theatre Festival in Iran. Their performance of dark folk tale The Last Resort, in which elders of a remote village are tempted by the Devil, was a huge hit and their creativity was rewarded with a Mobarak Award.

"The Mobarak Awards are the Iranian version of Punch," said artistic director Russell Dean. "Puppetry is a very important part of Iranian culture. Since the revolution, it's become a means of expressing things that the prevailing government won't allow on stage. It's a little bit like in Eastern Europe under the communists, puppetry and animation became a way of expressing dissent and it is the same in Iran."

One of the cultural barriers to performing in Iran is the fact that women are not allowed to touch men, which proved a problem given the interaction of male and female characters in the play. Yet Dean found that both the censors and the audiences were open-minded to the world of mask.

"Mask is a little confusing anyway because you lose yourself in the character and forget the sex," he said. "We had to perform for the official censors and when it came to it, they were just a couple of very smiley civil servants and we got away with murder."

Strangeface was formed by Dean and his wife Bethan Tomlinson in 2001 when Tomlinson, who was an events organiser for English Heritage, noticed a gap in the market for history-inspired performances. Dean had originally wanted to be a director, but discovered a gift for making masks and puppets.

Recently, the company's production of A Christmas Carol has been picked up by The Stables in Milton Keynes and the show will run there for three weeks over the festive period.

For their next project, they are planning to create a production inspired by William Hogarth's paintings, A Rake's Progress, and they are hoping to involve mental health projects in the piece.

"The last frame of A Rake's Progress ends in Bedlam and it's a very good starting point to explore different attitudes to mental health," Dean said.

"It's a natural bedfellow with mask work because mask changes consciousness very quickly and it's a way of putting yourself in other people's shoes. It's like the stigma of mental health – if you put someone in a mask and they don't know what it is and they can only go on people's reactions to the mask, it's a good way of demonstrating the way people react to those who don't think they have mental health problems."

Strangeface is looking for partners in the mental health field who might like to get involved in the next project. To find out more about the company, visit www.strangeface.co.uk.

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Crossing warning

CAMPAIGNERS against the proposed sell-off of the Dartford Crossing are to lobby Government.

Liberal Democrat James Willis will lead delegates to Westminster on Monday and hand a petition to Dartford MP Gareth Johnson.

Mr Willis said: "This is a reminder to Government pen-pushers that residents demand our crossing is not sold to a private company in the October spending review.

"Then we can work to build on the progress so far and get rid of the toll barrier congestion and pollution for good."

A FAMILY heirloom that survived the Nazi concentration camps and has been handed down through the generations since World War Two has been stolen in a burglary.

The ring, which is worth £800, has a distinctive East European design with a large, rectangular turquoise stone and was taken with a bracelet from a home in Forrester Close, Canterbury, on Tuesday.

Horse dyke saga

FIRE crews were called to rescue a former racehorse after it fell into a water-filled dyke. Chief, a 16-hand gelding, was trapped in water up to its neck after falling into the dyke in Poulders Road, Sandwich, on Tuesday.

The horse was sedated while crews from Faversham and Whitstable helped a specialist animal rescue unit winch it to safety.

Chief was unharmed and is expected to make a full recovery.

SAINSBURY'S is creating its biggest store in the UK by extending its Crayford branch to 100,000sq ft.

About 260 jobs have been created and the supermarket will include eco-features such as a ground source heat exchange, which heats and cools the store using renewable energy.

NHS trusts breaking IVF vows to childless couples

EXCLUSIVE

By MARIJKE COX

HEALTH trusts have failed to keep their promise of providing more than two full cycles of fertility treatment to childless couples.

In April, 2009, all three of the county's NHS trusts increased the number of free cycles from one to two, but following an investigation by a Tory MP into the availability of in vitro fertilisation (IVF), health chiefs vowed to boost cycles to three.

In a joint statement released in August, 2009, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, NHS West Kent and NHS Medway said: "We are currently working towards increasing this to three. In the autumn, the NHS in Kent will be inviting tenders to provide additional IVF work and this will help us work towards increasing the number of cycles offered."

But more than a year later, provision has remained the same.

It involves two full cycles of IVF or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), including up to two frozen embryo transfers, and six intrauterine insemination (IUI) treatments where sperm is injected directly into the womb when the woman is most fertile.

Nicky Bentley, associate director of specialist commissioning at NHS South East Coast, said: "Any future changes to the number of IVF cycles offered to couples would need to be made as part of Kent's NHS trusts' overall priorities and take into account the current financial circumstances."

SUCCESS: But not all IVF couples are lucky

Primary care trusts were recommended to offer three full cycles of IVF to women under 40 by medical watchdog the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in 2004. Figures from the Department of Health, however, revealed last year that only 30 per cent were doing so.

Twenty-three per cent were offering two and 47 per cent offering just one.

Kent's NHS trusts increased the number of cycles from one to two as part of the South East coast-wide policy on April 1, 2009.

For NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, the increase saw the total number of cycles given to eligible couples rise from 135 in 2008-09, costing £356,629; to 204 in 2009-10, costing £688,203. Three years ago the total number of cycles given was 33, with a cost of £82,872.

In west Kent, figures showed 186 cycles, at £715,418, for 2008-09; and 329 in 2008-09, totalling £1,380,555.

Miss Bentley put the increase down to the number of cycles offered to couples being raised to two: "The trusts made a significant investment in IVF in 2009, as they moved from offering one cycle to two full cycles.

"When the NICE guidelines were published, the Department of Health gave PCTs the ability to prioritise investment, with funding being made available in a phased way."

Rules and restrictions on factors such as age, relationships and partners having children from a previous relationship can affect eligibility for IVF.

Advice group Infertility UK said health trusts should use the definition as stated in the NICE fertility guidelines to ensure patients with "demonstrable" fertility problems are able to access services.

It also recommended that women aged between 29 and 39 should be able to access NHS funding for IVF.

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New flight service to Manchester starts at Manston

BUDGET airline Flybe launches its new Kent to Manchester service from Manston airport this week.

Fares start at £24.99 one way including taxes and charges, with the six-day a week flights being operated by the fuel-efficient Bombardier Q400 aircraft.

The first service from Manston left at 12.15pm on Monday, arriving in Manchester an hour and 10 minutes later.

Tom Wilson, chief executive of Manston's operator Infratil Airports Europe, said: "Flybe's decision to add a daily service between Manston and Manchester is fantastic news and a vote of confidence, not only in the airport, but also in Kent as a destination."

Flybe currently operates 203 routes in 13 countries and was last year used by 7.5 million passengers.

The airline has also been running a service between Manston and Edinburgh since May.

• An airline that has been using Manston airport has been barred from entering British airspace because of serious concerns over safety.

The Department for Transport says three inspections by the Civil Aviation Authority showed Meridian Airlines, a Ghanaian-registered cargo operator based in Belgium, led it to conclude that the operator "lacked the ability to ensure the safe operation of its aircraft".

Two planes have now been added to an EU blacklist.

Planes flown by Meridian have had fuel leaks, incorrectly stored and restrained luggage, missing information about engine repairs, missing valve caps from wheels, unrecorded panel repairs and unserviceable smoke-detectors.

The cargo flights that come into Manston regularly fly over Ramsgate.

Reckless shuns electoral reform bill in EU protest

X MARKS THE SPOT: Vote counting could be harder work

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A REBEL Tory MP refused to support changes to the electoral system after blaming Lib Dem leaders for the lack of a similar referendum on Europe.

Rochester and Strood representative Mark Reckless defied the three-line whip and abstained from Monday's crucial vote, having previously blasted Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg for his party's reluctance to hold a public ballot on Britain's involvement in the EU.

Mr Reckless was the only MP in Kent to deliberately shun the poll, as 20 of his county colleagues said 'yes' to the referendum even though most prefer the current 'first-past-the-post' system to the alternative vote (AV) method being proposed.

He said: "I previously stated to Mr Clegg that I could not support such a referendum unless the public is also allowed to vote on how our country is governed by Europe.

"I'm broadly in favour of referendums, I just don't think the Government should pick and choose ones convenient to them rather than what people really want."

Mr Reckless is close friends with outspoken Tory Kent MEP Daniel Hannan, who this week launched a campaign calling for an EU referendum.

Under the AV system proposed by the coalition, voters rank candidates in order of preference. Anyone receiving more than 50 per cent is elected, otherwise the person with the fewest votes is eliminated and their backers' second choices allocated to those remaining.

Illusion

The only other Kent Tory who failed to vote on the referendum was Roger Gale (North Thanet), who chaired the bill at the select committee stage and so was not allowed to vote or comment on the subject.

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys told KOS Media that while she would support the bill throughout all its stages, she was against any change to the current voting system.

"For my part I believe AV is the worst of all worlds," she said. "It provides the majority with an illusion of a second vote while in the main delivering very marginal parties with an additional bite at the electoral cherry.

"It is also one of the very few systems that delivers success to the least unpopular candidate. First-past-the-post and proportional representation at least reflect popularity."

Despite widespread criticism of the referendum – promised by the Conservatives as part of the coalition agreement – the bill was backed by 328 votes to 269.

In addition to plans for a referendum, the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill also includes proposals for fewer MPs and changes to constituency boundaries.

Yet despite Kent's Tories showing their early support for the bill, there may be problems ahead unless the Government changes the date of the planned referendum.

Five of the county's MPs – Mr Reckless, Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford), Adam Holloway (Gravesham), Bob Stewart (Beckenham) and Michael Fallon (Sevenoaks) – are among more than 45 to have signed an Early Day Motion calling for it not to be held on May 5 next year.

They believe that holding it on the same day as the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and some local council elections could "cloud the referendum debate".

• ***Turn to p27 to read Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe's views on AV.***

Taxpayers 'fund union action'

TRADE unions have been accused of using hundreds of thousands of pounds of Kent taxpayers' money to fund their own political campaigns, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Figures released by the Taxpayers' Alliance show that eight of the county's public sector organisations paid a total of around £208,000 last year so members of staff could carry out union duties.

Ten authorities – including Kent County Council – did not record how much time was lost to union work in 2008-09, so the final number is likely to be significantly higher.

Unions including Unison and the Trades Union Congress are considering a day of action against the Government spending cuts next month, but the Alliance said it was wrong for taxpayers' money to fund such campaigns.

Director Matthew Sinclair said: "Trade unions are lining up to fight vital cuts in public spending and threatening strikes that could cause massive disruption for ordinary families.

CAMPAIGN CASH TRAIL: Union duties are costing the public sector more than £200,000

"By financing their other work, taxpayers' money frees up union funds for political contributions and expensive campaigns.

"If big, rich, public sector unions are going to take an active political role, there is no way they should be getting taxpayers' money."

The eight organisations that responded to a Freedom of Information Act request from the Alliance were NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, NHS West Kent, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, and Ashford, Canterbury and Gravesham councils.

Based on the estimated staff time lost to union duties, Kent and Medway Social Care Partnership paid the most in wages at £70,418 – the equivalent of 2.6 full-time union reps.

NHS Eastern and Coastal paid £58,230 while Kent Fire paid £37,375.

David Lloyd – secretary for the Kent branch of Unison – said taxpayers' cash was put to good use on behalf of public services.

"We think it's unfair to suggest we're wasting people's money because actually we're protecting the public from cuts," he said.

"The organisations have to consult with us by law. Our representatives need the time to do their work, but many do it around their jobs.

Litigation

"Using us can reduce the risk of employees taking expensive litigation against the employer, thus saving taxpayers thousands.

Hazel Carpenter – director of workforce and organisation development at NHS Eastern and Coastal said: "NHS Eastern and Coastal has formal relationships with a number of unions recognised by the NHS.

"We provide reasonable facilities through salary support to enable appropriate union involvement in the business of the primary care trust on behalf of its members."

Trade unions prepare for a week of action against cuts

TRADE unions are gearing up to fight the Government's public sector spending cuts, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Brendan Barber, Trade Union Congress (TUC) general secretary, said planned grassroots protests could mirror those sparked by Margaret Thatcher's poll tax in 1990.

The action will form part of the battle against government proposals to cut national public service expenditure by £83 billion – details of which will be announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review next month.

Every coalition MP with a small majority will be lobbied and a week of 'discontent' is planned for October 18-23, which could include industrial action.

Kent trade union councils are rallying members to prepare for the week of activities.

On October 20 – the day Chancellor George Osborne is due to announce details of autumn's Comprehensive Spending Review – there will be a national day of action.

Mike Sargent, secretary of the Dover District Trades Council said Kent must have a voice.

"We represent thousands of union members across the region," he said. "We are a small group of activists trying to raise local issues and make a difference."

Mr Sargent said there was no opposition in the county due to the lack of Labour MPs and so it was down to the trade unions to fight against the coalition's cuts.

Megan Dobney, South East Regional TUC secretary, said: "We are expecting to lose 1.3 million jobs, so action needs to be taken."

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Join the fight for Gurkhas

THE founder of the Gurkha Justice Campaign has started a new battle on behalf of the loyal brigade by urging people to fight against potential Government cuts, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Peter Carroll, who won equal settlement rights for retired Nepalese soldiers last year with help from actress Joanna Lumley, has launched the Save the Gurkha campaign.

It follows concerns the 3,500-strong brigade could be axed in a bid to save 10-20 per cent from the Ministry of Defence's £36.9bn budget.

Tory MP and former army officer Patrick Mercer said the Gurkhas would be the first to go, claiming they were "not so cheap" since winning the high-profile rights campaign.

The MoD, however, dismissed the claims.

Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone is home to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, while almost half the soldiers from the Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Mr Carroll, a Lib Dem Shepway district councillor, has launched a petition.

He said: "Gurkhas are not second class citizens – they are special and loyal and have fought for this country for almost 200 years.

"It would be a devastating blow to the Gurkha community and to the economy in east Kent if the cuts did happen.

Petition

"It's still early days and no decision has been made by Government, but I want thousands of people to get involved. The Gurkha Justice Campaign showed me that when people join together to fight for something, they can make a difference.

"Although it's still early days, I'm hoping I can get enough support before a decision is made by Government so it can be deflected."

More than 200,000 Gurkhas – whose motto is 'better to die than be a coward' – fought in the two world wars for the British Army, with 43,000 losing their lives.

The victorious Gurkha Justice Campaign began in 2004 when Mr Carroll was approached by four veterans facing deportation. Back then no former Gurkha had a legal right to live in the UK after completing his military service, but within three years the Government had introduced a new policy that allowed those who retired after 1997 to settle in the country. Older veterans were left out until the victorious campaign in 2009.

Mr Carroll now wants the same public support the earlier campaign gathered.

"I want people to tell their friends and family to sign the petition and try to get as many people involved," he said.

CUTS: The Gurkhas face a new threat

Ex-Gurkha Dhan Gurung, from Folkestone, who fought in the British Army for nearly 20 years before retiring in 2004, said the Gurkha community in Kent had been strongly affected by news of the possible cuts.

"They are worried for their family and children and for those working on the frontline it has affected their morale," he said.

"Cutting the Gurkhas would mean losing the bravest and most loyal soldiers in the world for ever."

• ***To sign the petition go to www.savethegurkhas.whynotcampaign.co.uk.***

War of the writers at HG Wells festival

CELEBRATED: Author HG Wells

THE nominations are in for the awards at this year's HG Wells Festival in Folkestone.

There is £1,000 for the best contemporary story by writers under 26, and £250 for those older. The youngest in the running is Alexander Joshua Smith from Folkestone, who is just 12, who has written Everyday Karma – The Old Lady and the Youth.

Those in the older category include Alan Stockwell, 71, from Smarden, the oldest nomination, for his work A Day in the Life of Eve.

There are other Kent entrants in the older category from Herne Bay, Ashford and Folkestone.

Reginald Turnill, a former BBC aerospace correspondent, donated the £1,000 prize.

The original rules, which stipulated entries had to hand written, had to be relaxed after no-one entered.

He said: "After a slow start, the stories flooded in, and the judges had a challenging time reading over 100 entries of up to 5,000 words for the two awards."

Alex Wells, 20, great great grandson of HG Wells – who lived in the area – will open the festival at 6pm on Friday, September 17, at The Grand on the Leas.

On Saturday, there will be a staging of Wells's famous War Games on the lawn outside The Grand, plus a dinner with former newsreader Peter Sissons and Sandra Howard, novelist and wife of the former Folkestone MP Michael Howard.

Also on hand will be Alex's father and local novelist Prof Dominic Wells, great grandson of HG.

Mr Turnill said: "Instead of speeches which can put people off, the dinner will be followed by an open discussion led by myself about HG's stories. It should be a lively event."

The festival takes place at The Grand on the Leas, from Friday to Sunday, September 17-19.

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Woman against cheetah in race for speed crown

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE is the fastest land animal, another a contender for the fastest creature on Earth.

But when put to the test against one of Britain's fastest female rally car drivers, the question on everyone's lips was could nature's quickest beat a motoring machine.

Bomani the cheetah, Atom the peregrine falcon, Nelson the marshal eagle and Louise Cook in her Fiesta ST all took to the starting line last Sunday at Eagle Heights Wildlife Park in Eynsford, near Dartford, to see who could be the ultimate speed demon.

With cheetahs known to reach speeds of up to 70mph in three seconds and peregrine falcons having been recorded at 240mph, it was anyone's guess which one would cross the finish line in the quickest time.

But Bomani stormed to victory, pipping the 23-year-old racing driver to the post by completing the 100 metre course in just 7.5 seconds.

Miss Cook, from Maidstone, came a close second in eight seconds, the falcon in 8.4 seconds and the eagle in 18.3 seconds after veering off course.

Jonny Ames, head keeper at the wildlife park, said: "Nobody knew what the outcome would be.

"Cheetahs are the fastest land animals and peregrine falcons the fastest creature, but you never know how animals are going to perform.

"Louise did the course about nine times, but the cheetah and the falcon did it just the one time. They run once for their food and then they can't be bothered after that."

Some 600 people turned up to the event and fundraising took place raising £500 for the Cheetah Conservation Fund based in Namibia.

Miss Cook – who is competing in the final round of the British Rally Championship Challenge on September 24 – said: "It's nice to be able to support something like this.

"The people at Eagle Heights are doing what they can to protect and aid with the conservation of these endangered species.

"I've always loved animals and it's nice to be able to give something to a valuable cause like this to help it succeed."

She added: "It's such a unique thing, racing against the clock against animals rather than my fellow rally drivers."

SPEED FREAKS: Louise Cook and Bomani

Mr Ames said Miss Cook, currently in sixth place in the rally championship against 26 other competitors, all men, took the defeat well and believes she wanted the cheetah to win.

"It was a great day and she was excited to be a part of it," he said.

"I haven't heard of anything like this being done before and so we thought we'd put our idea to the test."

Eagle Heights Wildlife Park has looked after cheetahs for four years and birds of prey for 14.

For more information about Eagle Heights Wildlife Park, go to www.eagleheights.co.uk. To find out more about Louise, go to www.cute-cookie.co.uk.

£133k Lottery prize unclaimed

A LOTTERY prize worth more than £133,000 is unclaimed after three weeks.

The ticket bought in the City of Canterbury, including the Whitstable and Herne Bay area, will win the owner £133,550.

The ticket matched five numbers and the bonus ball in the Lotto draw on Saturday, August 21, and the winner has until Thursday, February 17, 2011, to claim.

The winning numbers on the date were 8, 15, 19, 26, 33, 36 and the bonus ball was 1.

To remind players about the winning weekend, Club Can't Handle Me by Flo Rida featuring David Guetta was top of the UK singles chart, Kent CCC beat Nottinghamshire in the Clydesdale Bank 40 by 42 runs, and the Herne Bay Festival started.

If you discover the ticket, call the National Lottery line on 0845 910 0000.

Widdecombe in her dance shoes

FORMER Maidstone Tory MP Ann Widdecombe has signed up to star in the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing show.

She will be up against Felicity Kendal, magician Paul Daniels, former footballer Peter Shilton, and Destiny's Child member Michelle Williams.

Also battling for the dancing crown will be Corrie's Tina O'Brien, Patsy Kensit, DJ Goldie, rugby player Gavin Henson, EastEnders' Kara Tointon and actor Jimi Mistry.

Training begins immediately for the stars as they get ready for the series which kicks off in just three weeks time.

This weekend Ms Widdecombe and the other contestants will find out which professional dancer they are to be partnered with for the rest of the series.

Maidstone and Weald voters said goodbye to Ms Widdecombe when she retired from the Commons at the general election.

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MP 'shocked' at tax bill blunders

CONSERVATIVE MP Michael Fallon has described the computer blunder that has left 1.4 million people facing under-paid tax bills as "pretty shocking".

The Tory representative for Sevenoaks, who is also a member of the Treasury Select Committee, says the gaffe has exposed the antiquated nature of Britain's tax collection system.

The coding blunders, which resulted in some people paying too much tax and others too little, were discovered by a new £400 million super-computer installed to replace a dozen regional systems.

As a result more than four million workers could be in line for a windfall averaging about £400 from the taxman – but another 1.4 million people could be sent unwelcome demands for unpaid tax, averaging about £1,400.

Mr Fallon, 58, said people should carefully check the bills before agreeing to pay.

He said: "It is pretty shocking. It's a rather familiar story isn't it? We have a vast computer system that came in two years late, which is not doing what it should be doing.

"I think there is a cultural problem. This is a very, very old system which looks at people's earnings in the previous year and tries to apply coded taxing to them.

"But lots of people now have different ways of earning, which is why ministers have put out for consultation a new way of calculating earnings for tax. The problem is that people will not have set money aside for this and this is particular problem for those on low incomes."

Church's on-air appeal

Bishops use radio advert to get worshippers on pews

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

CHURCH leaders will deliver a sermon from the airwaves in an attempt to lure worshippers back to Sunday service.

Attendances in Kent have shown a gradual decline over the last five years, prompting the dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury to fork out for a new publicity campaign to be broadcast on Heart FM.

The advert is aimed at promoting Back to Church Sunday on September 26, when former parishioners will be asked to follow in the footsteps of the Prodigal Son and return to the Christian fold.

Bishop of Dover Trevor Willmott said: "The Church of England doesn't live for itself. It's committed to encouraging the growth of a community and has some things to say about humanity that it believes people will be interested to hear.

"Unfortunately today we live in a society where an increasing number of people have never left the Church because they were never there in the first place, but of course there are others who have decided it has become distant from their lives.

HOPEFUL: Trevor Willmott and Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams

"There is more to church life than simply worship. It provides people with friendship and the chance to enjoy people's company, as well as the opportunity to carry out voluntary work for the good of the community."

According to Bishop Willmott, about 13,300 people attended an average Sunday service throughout the Canterbury diocese in 2008 compared to 13,600 in 2005.

However, the number attending church on weekdays has experienced a small increase.

"There is a lot more pressure on people's time these days," said Bishop Trevor. "People work more hours and are often too tired on a Sunday to go to church, while others would rather play football or cricket.

"The Church has to come to terms with that and come up with new ways to draw people back in."

Back to Church Sunday is being supported by about 220 Anglican churches in Kent alongside those from other denominations.

In addition to the radio advertising – created by Whistling Frog Productions – church members will also be mailing out personal invitations to their friends.

Whistling Frog spokesman Colin Lowther said: "Radio is a one-to-one medium even though it's not face-to-face, so the idea of an on-air invitation can still work well.

"With a national event such as Back to Church Sunday, it makes sense to use a 30-second advert to raise awareness of a single day that could change listeners' lives forever."

• ***Visit www.backtochurch.co.uk for more information.***

Jailed for Securitas stash

A MAN has been jailed for 15 months for hiding some of the loot stolen during the £53 million Tonbridge robbery.

John Jeeves, 36, of Jenningtree Way, Belvedere, south-east London, had stashed £103,000 at an address in Greenwich.

A court heard that some of this money was linked to the raid on the Securitas depot in Tonbridge in February, 2006.

Jeeves was jailed at the Old Bailey in London after pleading guilty to a single charge of concealing criminal property.

Company director Ian Bowrem, 46, of Higher Metcombe, near Ottery St Mary in Devon, admitted concealing criminal property from the Securitas heist during a hearing at Maidstone Crown Court last month. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Police have so far recovered £21 million of the missing cash.

Destroyer wins big TV lottery award

A WORLD War Two destroyer now standing as a memorial to the 11,000 sailors lost at sea has won a prestigious National Lottery award.

HMS Cavalier, which was restored at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, won the vote for best educational project at a ceremony broadcast on BBC One last Saturday.

The team behind the warship picked up a £2,000 prize to add to the £1.5 million funding already provided by the Lottery for its repairs.

Joanne Creighton – director of learning and visitor programmes at the dockyard – picked up the award during the National Lottery's Big Night ceremony, hosted by Doctor Who star John Barrowman.

She said: "It's an absolute honour to have won this award and for everyone involved in the project to receive national recognition for their hard work and dedication.

"Lottery funding has been crucial to our project, allowing us to preserve and adapt this amazing ship, which is now an inspiring educational tool as well as a memorial to the men who perished on destroyers during World War Two.

PRIZE: Joanne Creighton and Alec Cheyney from HMS Cavalier with the Lottery Award for Best Education Project

"The awards have given us a great opportunity to highlight how we've put our funding to good use and show anyone who has ever played the lottery the difference their money makes."

Lisa Quinn of the National Lottery Awards said: "Lottery players raise £25 million every week for projects all across the UK, and the National Lottery Awards are a fantastic way to celebrate the enormous amount of hard work that goes into making these projects a success."

SHIP SHAPE: HMS Cavalier, the Royal Navy's last operational World War Two destroyer

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• A demonstration of our new website and DVDs showcasing our services
• 1.15pm - 1.45pm. A chance to question senior NHS staff on a 'Question Time' panel
• Copies of the Agenda and papers will be available on our website, please visit www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk
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'Flawed' special needs scheme facing the axe

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A PROBLEMATIC scheme aimed at integrating special needs children into mainstream schools is on course to be scrapped.

A report due for discussion at a Kent County Council cabinet meeting on Monday will lay out the problems created by the Lead School project, which was first rolled out in parts of the county in 2008.

The pilot, branded "confusing" by parents and education experts, looked at whether Kent could phase out specialist units for children with special educational needs (SEN) and instead allocate them places at mainstream schools.

These schools would be given specialist outreach help from a 'lead school' in the area aimed at six need types: autism, hearing and visual impairment, physical difficulties, speech, language and communication needs, and specific learning difficulties.

But ongoing confusion over the review by parents, education officials and schools, as well as concerns over sufficient provision for children with severe complex needs, has led to recommendations for the pilot to be stopped.

County Hall's specialist children's services department has advised councillors in the report to stop the first phase of the pilot, which ran in Ashford, Shepway, Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, by March, 2011.

And phase two, which would see the scheme rolled out across the whole county, could be axed altogether if members vote to follow the recommendations at Monday's meeting.

Misguided

Gravesend-based independent education adviser Peter Read was pleased the "misguided and confusing" pilot was set to be axed.

He had predicted there would be significant problems, including pressures on mainstream teachers faced with an increasing range of special needs in the classroom, as well as integration problems for children with severe needs.

"This pilot is flawed in so many ways," he said. "I think it came from an ideological drive to place children with SEN into mainstream schools following the discredited Baroness Warnock policy, which she recognised was a mistake in its first year. There needs to be an integrated policy which looks at what each child requires. Every child is different and there can't be a set model for each case."

Mr Read said another concern with the pilot was the lack of communication between KCC, parents and head teachers, which led to confusion over specialist unit placements.

"With KCC there was a big problem with communication and this is stated in the report," he said.

"They vehemently denied specialist units were closing and denied they had stopped taking on students, but parents had been led to believe they couldn't apply for a place."

In June, KOS Media reported that Rosalind Turner, managing director of children, families and education, had issued an apology for the "misunderstanding" where teachers and parents were led to believe units were closing.

But despite this, the interim policy published on KCC's website still states: "There will be no new admissions to the units but all children and young people currently in them will remain there until they are due to leave or until a review of the statement of SEN determines their placement should change."

Mr Read said: "The intake for units has dropped considerably because people thought they couldn't apply for a place, only to find out they could. Some units have been terminally affected by the lack of intake."

Criticised

Another problem cited in the KCC report was that one educational model did not fit all SEN types. It states: "There needs to be a continuum of provision available for each SEN dimension need type that includes specialist provision within mainstream schools."

It claimed there also needed to be clarity in terms of outreach services. Mr Read criticised the report for not mentioning the SMILE project which runs in Kent and has successfully provided outreach in schools separately as the pilot was ongoing. He said: "Why did they need to set up lead schools when this was available?

"There needs to be a unified SEN policy which will cater for all different needs."

Pictures: NEVILLE BUCK

Park's delight at two rare arrivals

TWO rare clouded leopards have been born at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe. The cubs join mum and dad, Thyto and Aston, and her sister, Phaya, *writes Frank Stannard*.

Their gender is yet to be identified, but at just three weeks old the cubs have been caught on camera by keeper Neville Buck.

He said: "We're really pleased with the birth of Thyto's fourth litter, it's an important step in conserving this beautiful and elusive species.

"I was able to check the pair and take photos when Thyto was feeding. They should start to explore the outside world at about six weeks."

The clouded leopard is the smallest of the big cats and native to the tropical forests of South-east Asia. The population is declining rapidly and it is estimated that fewer than 10,000 remain. The species is threatened by the hunting and deforestation.

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Post sorting jobs are under threat

UP TO 400 postal workers could lose their jobs in a huge Royal Mail shake up across the county.

New plans for a 'super sorting station' in Medway would also mean closure of Maidstone's post depot.

Staff at the Sandling Road office would see their jobs either cut completely or moved to the new station within 18 months.

Royal Mail spokesman Akudo Ike, believes the county will benefit from closing depots at Canterbury, Dartford, Tonbridge and Maidstone, to form one Kent mail centre by spring 2012.

He said: "These are all more than 25 years old and do not have space for the latest mail sorting machinery in which Royal Mail is investing to modernise its business.

"This means changes for people as we anticipate around 400 fewer jobs will be required – from a total of 3,710 employees – but our intention is always to make changes without recourse to compulsory redundancies."

The new mega mail centre would be built at the former Tesco distribution warehouse site near Norman Close in Strood, which currently lies derelict.

Communication Workers Union branch manager Dave Banbury said: "Obviously our workers are concerned about their jobs and what jobs there will be at the new site."

Charges after inmates riot over TV

INMATES caused more than £10,000 of damage during a five-hour riot at the young offenders institute in Rochester. The Cookham Wood convicts smashed windows and hurled missiles during a five-hour protest at not being allowed to watch television. The scenes on Tuesday, June 29, ended with a riot team being called in to restore calm. Three men appeared at Medway Magistrates Court on charges of violent disorder. Charlie Akhurst, 18, of Edmonton, London, Reece Blackston, 18, of Gravesend, and a 17-year-old were remanded in custody until September 30.

MOTE Park will be turned into a cultural celebration this weekend for the Maidstone Mela.

The fun starts on Saturday at 5pm and performers include Jazzy B, and the Briefcase Blues Brothers. Fireworks are at 9.15pm. Then on Sunday there will be music, food, a parade, and dance from noon until 6pm.

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Schools library service is axed by County Hall

THE decision to shut its school library service has been defended by Kent County Council.

The service was based in Kings Hill, West Malling, and schools miles away had to send someone to collect the books needed and then return them.

Under a new ticket scheme, school staff can visit their local library to borrow an allocation of books.

Janet Davies, family and lifelong learning services manager at KCC, said: "We continually work to improve access to our services.

"From this month we will be offering free loans to all Kent schools through our libraries countywide under the new school ticket system. We want all schools to be able to benefit from access to high quality library books.

Replacement

"This new system will replace the Kent Schools Library Advisory Service, which many schools found difficult to access.

"Schools will now be able to borrow up to 100 books from any public library in Kent, so it will be easier for them to access a wider range of titles. The new service allows staff from the school to come in and borrow books from their local library, or for classes to come in and choose their own.

"Multiple copies of a book can also be made available by reserving in advance. In addition to providing books, we are continuing to support schools with class visits, homework clubs, reading groups and a range of activities and events," she added.

• Cambridgeshire closed its schools library service earlier this year and Oxfordshire's was shut several years ago.

The Omen's original 'devil-child' puts home on the market

Cross your heart and hope to buy

OF ALL the estate agents a 'devil-child' could choose to sell their home, The Omen actor Harvey Stephens had to pick Proctors – whose phone number ends in 666, ***writes Chris Murphy.***

The number of the beast is a complete coincidence, of course, but when KOS Media points this out to Harvey, who played Damien in the horror movie, he couldn't help but be amused by it.

He said: "I really didn't choose it because of the number, but it was quite funny when I saw it. I picked the company because they're good at what they do."

The Omen movie series sees Damien grow in power as the Antichrist, but Harvey is immortalised as the first Damien Thorn in the original 1976 film.

He was just four when he was selected for the role and had to have his blond hair dyed black. According to director Richard Donner, Harvey got the part after he punched Donner in the groin.

The son of a US diplomat (played by screen legend Gregory Peck) assigned to London, Damien soon wreaks havoc on the household, leading to the deaths of the nanny, a vicar, and his parents, as well as decapitating researcher David Warner with a plate-glass window. Harvey also appeared in the 2006 remake as a tabloid reporter. It was released on June 6 – making the date 6/6/06.

Harvey said: "Not many people talk about the film any more. I know it's a classic, but it's all a long time ago now and in the past."

The actor turned property developer and jet-ski customiser said his home was unusual for the area. The mock-Tudor property at Petts Wood is on the market for £795,000, and is also home to Harvey's wife, Emma, and their two daughters, Grace, seven, and Lily, three. Now the 39-year-old is on the lookout for a plot where he can build his dream home.

ABOVE: Harvey Stephens' home in Petts Wood
LEFT: Harvey as Damien
RIGHT: With US screen giants Peck and Remick

He said: "I love doing up properties. The one we're in now was in a bit of a state. We extended it and created a fabulous home.

"Now I've found another site where a house stands at the moment. But we'll knock that down and build a modern five-bedroom house, complete with steam room, cinema and cellar. I'm really enjoying this side of my life at the moment."

Harvey also runs Venom Design, a company that takes standard £14,000 Seadoo jet-skis and rebuilds them for wealthy clients. He said: "You can have anything on them now – sat nav, phone, music, lights, anything. That takes the cost to about £28,000. It's really fulfilling doing something so creative – and they're great fun to use."

A 2005 documentary called The Cure of The Omen detailed scary coincidences since the release of the original. There is a scene where zoo monkeys go crazy and it later emerged the keeper was tragically killed.

A stunt double for Lee Remick – the actress who played Damien's mother – was seriously hurt in another film when he missed an airbag jumping from a building. He later said he felt a ghostly push sending him off course. And the man who designed the beheading scene was later involved in a car crash where his wife was hurt by flying glass.

• For information on the house, phone the agent on 01689 606666. For more details about Venom, visit venom-design.com.

Play wins Emin backing

PROMINENT Margate artist Tracey Emin has given her backing to a new theatre production which aims to revive the fortunes of the seaside town.

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

First Impressions – which will be shown at the resort's Theatre Royal on September 24 and 25 – examines the potential impact the under construction Turner Contemporary gallery will have on the community and how it could speed up the town's long-awaited regeneration.

TRACEY EMIN: Theatre support

"I completely support all artistic ventures in Thanet but this one sounds particularly interesting as it involves ideas about both art and theatre," said Ms Emin, who was brought up in Margate and attended Medway College of Design, and Maidstone Art College.

"The fact it is to be performed at the Theatre Royal is another bonus. I'm sure the people of Thanet will also support this initiative to open and broaden ideas about art and creativity within the area."

Produced by the Net Curtains theatre company and created by The Archers scriptwriter Tim Stimpson, First Impressions tells the tale of a Thanet councillor and his attempts to persuade the local authority to purchase a Turner masterpiece discovered in a dead woman's home.

Artistic director Claire Farrington, 34, from Tunbridge Wells, said: "I used to go to Dreamland a lot as a child but hadn't visited the town for years until I came back for a project I was working on in 2006. Arriving at the train station, I saw a wasteland of boarded-up shops and was devastated. It sounds odd, but I was quite fascinated by the dilapidation and couldn't believe it had been allowed to happen.

"I feel very sorry for the people living there because it's taking such a long time to get back on its feet."

Ms Farrington said: "The play shows that art can be inspiring and the same applies to theatre. I'd like the production to be a catalyst for people to come down, stay for the weekend and then return in the future."

Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and can be booked by calling 0845 130 1786. Visit www.netcurtains.org for more information.

Equitable anger

EAST Kent MPs Laura Sandys and Charlie Elphicke held a public meeting in Sandwich Guildhall with Equitable Life victims.

The MPs heard about the hardship and suffering that has affected thousands of their constituents over the last 13 years.

Many Equitable Life pensioners expressed concern the affair had dragged on for a decade without resolution.

Dover Tory MP Charlie Elphicke said: "So many people have lost out – and many will not live to see the day of compensation arrive.

"We are making the strongest case to the Government for proper compensation to be made. As the public finances are in complete disarray, policy holders have asked us to put the case for compensation to be paid over time."

Tomb with a view for visitors

A RARE opportunity to see a 3rd century Roman mausoleum normally hidden from view in a back garden will be on offer next weekend, ***writes Frank Stannard***.

The cemetery, in Keston, contains a Roman tomb, a smaller rectangular tomb with a stone coffin inside, and a decorated lead casket. Free guided tours will be provided by volunteers.

The cemetery was excavated between 1967 and 1993 by a team led by Council of Kentish Archaeology chairman Brian Philip.

He said: "We look forward to showing visitors these two fine Roman tombs, the only such tombs available for the public to visit in Britain and archaeological gems of the borough of Bromley."

The tomb is in the garden of the O'Keefe family. Keston Roman tombs are open on Sunday, September 19, from 11am-4pm at Brambletye, Westerham Road. For more information, telephone 020 8460 1442.

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Moonlit flit with a Loose Woman

LOOSE Women presenter Carol McGiffin is starting this year's charity Moonlit Walk.

Taking a break from the hit ITV show, Maidstone-born Carol, who now lives in London, agree to start the women-only walk on Saturday, September 18.

CAROL McGIFFIN

Money raised will go the Heart of Kent Hospice. Last year, the ladies topped up the hospice's coffers by £92,000 with their stroll under the stars.

Kate Bosley, chief executive of the hospice, said: "We're delighted Carol is coming back to Kent to join hundreds of women taking part in the Moonlit Walk, one of the Heart of Kent Hospice's key fundraising events."

The hospice said there is still time for women to join in. The walk starts at 10pm from David Lloyd Leisure Club in Kings Hill.

Then comes an option of a six or 10 mile route, both of which are fully marshalled, well-lit with regular water and refreshment stops.

Entry is £15 which includes a 2010 Moonlit Walk T-Shirt and fancy dress is welcomed.

Walkers need to book their place, so for more details contact the fundraising department on 01622 790195 or email enquiries@hokh.co.uk.

• Former Pop Idol judge Nikki Chapman, from Canterbury, is taking part in a similar event. The Pilgrims Hospices Moonlight Walk, on September 18, aims to raise cash for local care centres. It starts at Herne Bay pier and follows an eight-mile coastal trail to Whitstable and back.

Foreign students targeted to slash migrant numbers

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

AN OVERHAUL of the "out of control" immigration system will see tighter restrictions on the tens of thousands of students coming to Britain, says immigration minister Damian Green.

In his first key speech since the coalition Government took over from Labour, the Ashford MP stressed the need to take control of the influx of students coming from overseas. Figures published by the Home Office this week revealed 20 per cent of foreign students were still in the UK five years after being granted visas.

Last year, 288,000 oversees non-EU students were given visas to study.

"If we continue to have a fifth of each cohort of students staying long term we will have very high net migration numbers indeed," said Mr Green.

Bogus

He told KOS Media some used the student visa as a way of getting into the UK, while others were encouraged by bogus colleges. "What I want is to make sure every student who comes here is legitimate and doing a legitimate course," he said.

"What we've seen in the past few years is an upsurge in student numbers and yet Home Office research published this week shows only half are doing degree studies.

"Most people think foreign students come here to attend top universities, and of course these are the students we want to attract.

"But the real picture of the parts of Britain's education system that attract foreign students is much more varied, including private vocational colleges and independent schools.

DAMIAN GREEN: Immigration concerns

"The foreign students attending various establishments may or may not be the brightest and the best. The next step is to look carefully at whether the course is offering students a proper qualification and whether the students are coming here to study long-term or just as a way of coming to this country."

Mr Green said there had been a surge in the number of institutions opening in recent years. "I'm not talking about universities," he said, "new colleges are being set up, especially for overseas students. Some of them are legitimate, but not all. We had some students from Libya who turned up to go to college and they found it was just a scam."

Mr Green said 70 fake colleges had been identified, where students pay money, turn up and are given a certificate of qualification on their first day.

"The whole immigration system – not just foreign students – was out of control under Labour," he said. "We need to get levels of immigration down and ensure overseas students really are here to study and will return to their country of origin at the end.

"We need to understand why a significant proportion of students are still here more than five years after their arrival.

"We also need a system which can scrutinise effectively and, if necessary, take action against those whose long-term presence would be of little or no economic benefit."

Mr Green said he understands the UK is the best place to learn English – with Kent in particular offering a large number of language schools – but he stressed that those who study in this country should play by the rules and leave when visas expire.

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SAGA
Cruising done properly

Great survivor Nigel is ready for second Ukip leadership tilt

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

NIGEL Farage says he will reshape Ukip's management structure if members allow him to lead the party for a second time.

The 46-year-old Sevenoaks resident only quit the role 12 months ago but is hankering for a return after the unexpected resignation of his successor, Lord Pearson.

When Mr Farage first stepped down as Ukip leader he told members it was because it was too difficult to manage the party as well as serve as an MEP for the South East. However, he told KOS Media this week he had found a solution for the problem.

Picture: DWELLER

NIGEL FARAGE

"I was just overwhelmed the first time round," said Mr Farage. "It was just too much for one person to bear and intolerable. It still is a huge burden, but I've thrown my hat in the ring with the intention to do things differently if I get the job again.

"I've learned that you can't really be a leader and a manager at the same time, so I would being in a chief executive and a team of professionals to run things while I focused on the media and publicity side.

• NIGEL Farage has added his name to the growing list of people opposed to the planned privatisation of the Port of Dover.

The UKIP leadership hopeful said the port was one of the country's key strategic assets and must be protected at all costs.

He added: "If whoever buys the port has a couple of bad years, then what's to stop them closing it down? That would be disastrous for the country."

"I've agonised over this decision. Politically, there are huge opportunities for Ukip, especially as the policies of the three main parties have virtually merged into one. I've done the job before, I know what's needed and I believe I've had a reasonable amount of success in the role.

"I never intended to come back after one year, but I feel this is what I have to do."

Mr Farage was one of the founding members of the UK Independence Party in 1993 and led the party from 2006 until September, 2009.

Another reason for his resignation was to devote more time to standing against House of Commons Speaker John Bercow in May's General Election – a decision which almost cost Mr Farage his life when the plane he was in crashed on polling day.

The accident left the former Bromley schoolboy with serious back injuries that continue to plague him, and which could have put paid to his leadership plans.

Mr Farage said: "Two or three of my vertebrae are damaged and will probably never be the same, but in the week before the conference I put myself through a gruelling travel schedule and somehow managed it. My back isn't what it should be but I've found I can get by regardless and I'm quite pleased about that."

Mr Farage's fellow MEPs David Campbell Bannerman and Gerard Batten have also said they will contest the UKIP leadership election, expected to take place in November.

Another former leader, Jeffrey Titford, has been placed in temporary charge.

News and sport updated daily online
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Suspect arrested after garage fire

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of arson after a fire at a petrol filling station on the A20 in Dover.

A small fire was lit on Saturday, August 28, at about 1am. Staff at the filling station, in the port's Limekiln Street, near the Western Docks, were able to put out the blaze themselves. Nobody was injured.

The 50-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of starting the fire and has been released on bail until October 10, pending further inquiries.

Police would like to speak to a man who alerted staff to the fire as he may have information that could help the investigation.

Man rapes child and attacks OAP

A STROOD man has pleaded guilty to raping a young child. Gurjinder Narman, of London Road, admitted charges of rape and inciting sexual behaviour.

The charges relate to an incident reported to police on August 13, last year. The 22-year-old has already pleaded guilty to two charges of sexual assault and knowingly trespassing to commit a sexual offence.

One offence took place in Strood on October 4, 2009, and the other in Gravesend on June 27, 2009.

Both victims were elderly women.

Narman has been remanded in custody and is due to be sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on November 15.

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Rising dangers of flooding tackled by emergency services

IN THE wake of a spring tide barrier exercise at a coastal town comes an exhibition on how to cope with river flooding further inland, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

The Environment Agency ran its annual operation in Sandwich, where workers scrambled to install a temporary 'wall' to protect the town from rising water.

The wall is known as a 'demountable flood defence' and the exercise was timed to coincide with a three-metre spring tide at Sandwich Quay.

The exercise involved 12 members of the agency's Lower Stour incident response team deploying more than 170 metres of portable flood defences. The agency said the temporary protection was designed to reduce flood risk until permanent defences were built.

A strategy plan has already identified several options for managing coastal flooding and erosion between Pegwell Bay and Kingsdown, south of Deal.

It also looks at tidal flooding from the River Stour in the Sandwich area.

Subject to approval, Sandwich will be protected from tidal flooding using a storage reservoir at Broadsalts, which has added benefit of potentially creating a nature reserve. Coastal defences will also be strengthened between Sandwich and Deal.

Paul Marshall, leader of the response team, said: "In recent years we have made solid progress protecting communities in Kent from flooding, but our coastline is going to come under increasing pressure. Climate change will increase the likelihood of flooding in future, but we can all prepare for it."

Meanwhile, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and Yalding Parish Council are holding an event to help homeowners and businesses cope with flooding.

Paul Ramsden, manager at Tonbridge fire station, said: "The main aims are to show residents how they can plan for and deal with flooding and its aftermath, in order to try to reduce the potentially catastrophic results of incidents of this nature.

Worry

"It is essential that home and business owners equip themselves with the knowledge of what could happen during a flood and we hope this event will go some way towards achieving this."

Mark Douch, flood risk manager for Kent, said: "Taking a few simple steps to protect your home and family from flooding, just as you would for burglary or fire, could save thousands of pounds and months of worry."

The exhibition will be held at The Lees, Lees Road, Yalding, on Saturday, September 18, from 10am.

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Thanks a million: Crime *does* pay – for extra policing

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than £1 million recovered from conmen, drug dealers and thieves is being pumped back into policing in Kent.

Kent Police are one of the top forces nationally for utilising the Proceeds of Crime Act, having already clawed back £2.2 million for the national coffers so far this financial year.

Half of the cash, which represents 17 per cent of the £12.4m total recovered nationally, will now be handed back to the county to spend on local policing.

Justice

Det Insp Mark Fairhurst, of Kent Police's serious economic crime unit, said: "Forces have the additional tool of the Proceeds of Crime Act to recover profits from crime – even if that person has not been convicted.

"The power of the legislation that sits behind this ensures criminals leave the justice system without benefiting from the crimes they commit.

"Not only is 'crime doesn't pay' an effective message, but the money taken from the criminal is then used to support policing in disrupting further criminality."

Last year, Kent Police received more than £700,000 from the Home Office's asset recovery incentivisation scheme (Aris), which is used to return money to forces that have successfully applied through the courts for the proceeds of crime to be paid back.

The largest seizure of assets in Kent was in December last year when Chatham resident Guarcharan Singh was ordered to pay back £3.2m earned through the sale of counterfeit goods.

Other examples include the seizure of £632,400 believed to have been raised through drugs crimes – about £500,000 of which was found hidden inside the defendant's toilet in Rochester – and the forfeiture of £1.4m discovered in the back of a van at the Port of Dover.

Money the Home Office does not return to the forces is deposited in a central government fund, with the additional Community Cashback scheme giving local people a choice in how criminal assets are spent in fighting crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities.

Examples in Kent include Teenspace in Deal, the Quartet community allotment in Margate, and the Sherwood after-school club in Tunbridge Wells.

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Unique Nazi bomber found

Secret location of rare enemy warplane revealed

A WARTIME enthusiast has revealed the moment he and a team of divers uncovered the secret location of a rare German bomber 70 years after it was shot down during the Battle of Britain, ***writes Marijke Cox.***

The Dornier 17, which is the only one known to still exist, was identified on the Goodwin Sands off the coast of Deal by pensioner John Franklin, two years after it was first found by the RAF.

Its location had been kept a guarded secret by the RAF to keep looters at bay, until it was ready to be raised from the seabed.

But Gravesend resident Mr Franklin, who is a member of the Blenheim Society, was directed to the site in April by enthusiasts believing the wreck to be a Blenheim bomber from World War Two.

But a dive team discovered it was the unique Dornier 17, known as the 'Flying Pencil' due to its sleek design.

Mr Franklin was contacted by the RAF and he kept the discovery a secret.

But the RAF has now announced the bomber, which was found lying on its roof, will be brought up and displayed in its museum in London as part of the Battle of Britain Beacon exhibition.

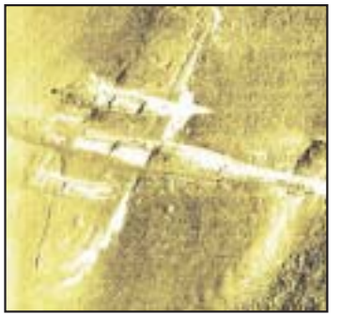
Mr Franklin said: "This is the first time I've really been able to talk about it.

"In April I was sent a map showing what was thought to be a Blenheim bomber on the Goodwin Sands.

"I set up a dive team in Folkestone and after going down there I knew it wasn't a Blenheim from the differences in the tail and fuselage.

"We were very excited about the find."

The Dornier was part of a large enemy formation intercepted above Deal by RAF fighter aircraft on August 26, 1940.



HIGH-FLIER: A Dornier 17 in flight and the site of the sunken plane on the Goodwin Sands

The German planes were trying to launch an attack on airfields in Essex.

During the interception, one of the Dorniers, flown by Flight Sergeant Willi Effmert, attempted a landing on the Goodwin Sands.

He touched down safely but was captured along with another crew member to become prisoners of war in Canada.

The aircraft sank on the Goodwin Sands.

Air Vice-Marshal Peter Dye, director general of the RAF Museum, said its discovery is of national and international importance.

"The aircraft is a unique and unprecedented survivor of the Battle of Britain," he said.

"It is particularly significant because, as a bomber, it formed the heart of the Luftwaffe assault and the subsequent Blitz.

"The Dornier will provide an evocative and moving exhibit that will allow the museum to present the wider story of the Battle of Britain and highlight the sacrifices made by the young men of both air forces and from many nations."

The RAF Museum is working with English Heritage and Wessex Archaeology to survey the wreck site.

A recovery plan is being drawn up to protect the aircraft from further damage.

African Olympic officials in town

DELEGATES from Uganda's Olympic committee have visited Ashford to see if it would make a suitable base for the 2012 Games.

Ashford has four approved pre-games training camps – the Julie Rose Stadium, the Stour Centre, Great Chart Golf Club, and Chilham Park.

It also boasts the high-speed train connections to the Olympic Park – just 30 minutes from Ashford International.

Cllr Paul Bartlett said: "Competing countries for 2012 will be looking for suitable training facilities, a range of accommodation, good transport links to London and leisure facilities.

"Obviously, Ashford has a great deal going for it in this respect."

Architects build up award hopes

FOUR Kent architects have been shortlisted for the Downland Prize 2010, awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects' for buildings in the South East that cost less than £1.5 million.

The shortlisted architects are Guy Hollaway of Guy Hollaway Architects in Hythe; James Robson and Bryn Warlow of Hazle McCormack Young in Tunbridge Wells; and Shane Jell of Sub Rosa Architecture in Gravesend.

Winners and runners-up will be announced on November 9.

Memorabilia owned by historic World War Two hero to go under the hammer at Kent auction

Dambuster's book to sell for a bomb

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RARE Dambusters memorabilia is set to go under the auctioneer's hammer and could fetch massive prices.

Among them is a book about the raid, owned by Flying Officer Brian Goodale of the famed 617 Squadron.

It is signed by many of those who flew against German dams armed with the incredible bouncing bombs, which were developed off the Kent coast at Reculver.

Goodale, known as Concave, was the only wireless operator to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and bar during World War Two.

He was a member of the AJ-L Leather crew and survived the first wave of attacks on the Eder dam.

After the war he became a salesman, went to Northern Ireland and stayed at the Devonshire Hotel.

One night he vanished, leaving behind his belongings and an unpaid bill.

The next time he was heard of was when he died in Cambridge Hospital in 1977.

Now 42 years later that hotel room debt is set to be repaid in full thanks to an amazing coincidence for one Kent woman.

Among the books to be offered in the two-day sale at the Canterbury Auction Galleries is Goodale's copy of The Dam Busters by Paul Brickhill, made immortal when director Michael Anderson used it as he basis for his 1955 film starring Richard Todd.

Heroes

The book is all the more special because it was signed by most of the heroes involved in the daring raids on the German Ruhr dams, including bouncing bomb inventor Barnes Wallis and air ace Johnnie Johnson.

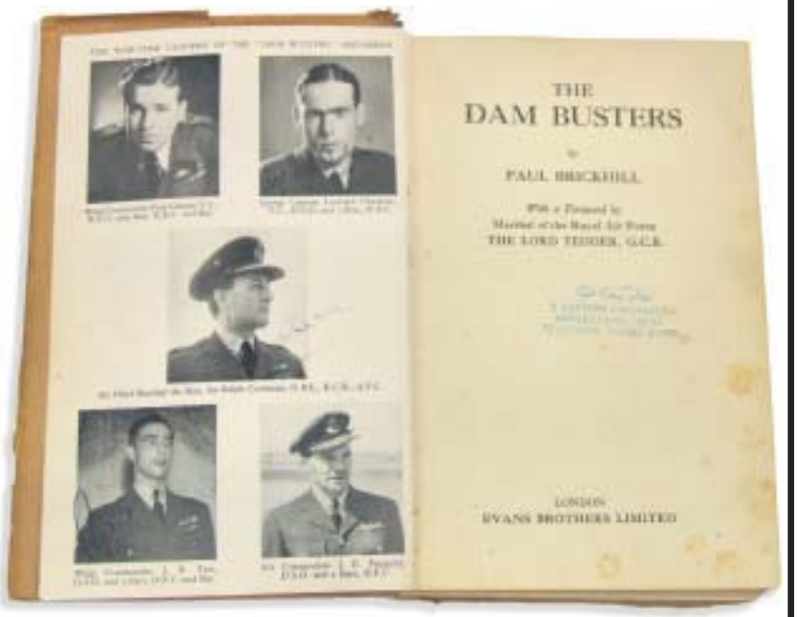
Vanessa Farnham, 58, now lives in Whitstable. She remembers the tall, cultured Goodale staying at her parents' hotel.

She said: "We had a hotel in Newtownards, near Belfast, and he lodged with my parents on a weekly basis. He went home one weekend but never returned, leaving the bill unpaid.

"He left all his belongings and clothes behind and his signed book, which just went on to the hotel bookshelf.

"When the book was launched in 1951, there was a huge get-together of all the men and the books were passed around so they could each have their own autographed copies.

"Everyone with a picture plate in the book signed his copy except for Guy Gibson, who was killed later in the war. Leonard Cheshire signed it because he was there as Gibson's successor as squadron commander.



MEMORABILIA: Copy of The Dam Busters once owned by 617 Squadron hero Brian Goodale (above) could fetch a sizeable sum, and pictures of the Eder dam (left)

"We were watching the Antiques Roadshow and someone had a copy of the book and I turned to my husband and said 'I've got one of those'.

"Then I heard that the BBC show Flog It! was coming to Herne Bay, so I took it along. Until then I didn't realise its significance."

The book has been given a tentative value of up to £800, but could go for even more if a true Dambusters collector is in the crowd.

Kent airfields became known as Hellfire Corner during the Battle of Britain because they were priority targets for the Luftwaffe.

Also on sale is an extensive collection of original photographs of the action, amassed by the late Roy Humphreys, a longstanding member of the Kent Aviation and Historical Society and a foremost authority on the subject.

He wrote several books, including Dover at War, and Deal at War, before he died in 2007 aged 80.

Damage

His collection includes an unbound proof copy of his book Dover Patrol 1914-18, plus dozens of rare photographs of the damage inflicted on Thanet, Folkestone and Dover.

His widow, Hilda, 87, who lives in Hawkinge, near Folkestone, has put them up for sale.

Ironically, Hawkinge is the home of the Kent Battle of Britain Museum, and also a key airfield vital to the RAF's war effort.

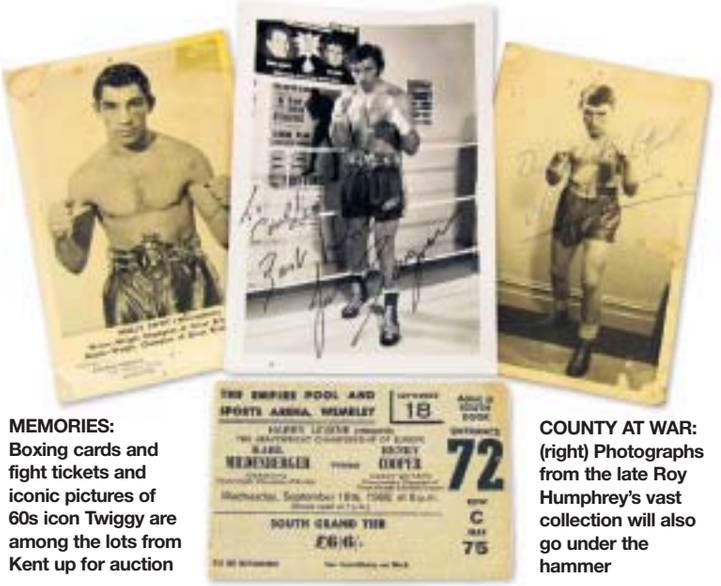
Robin Brooks, a fellow author, member of the Kent Aviation Society and friend the Humphreys said: "I've never seen another collection of aviation pictures as comprehensive as this. It is a remarkable body of work which deserves to be preserved for future generations."

The collection will be sold in three lots with estimates of up to £200 each.

There are other key Kent lots, too. A Ramsgate collector of old sports photographs is putting up his stock for sale. They include shots of Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, and Joe Frazier from the world of boxing.

And iconic pictures of Twiggy, which were spotted and launched her career, also go under the hammer.

The Canterbury Auction Galleries sale is on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14-15.



MEMORIES: Boxing cards and fight tickets and iconic pictures of 60s icon Twiggy are among the lots from Kent up for auction

COUNTY AT WAR: (right) Photographs from the late Roy Humphrey's vast collection will also go under the hammer

LETTERS

We must take mutual action

During the time the current management of Kent Reliance Building Society has been in charge, every promise made at the outset has been broken.

Specifically, that Kent Reliance would never, ever demutualise; that the society would continue to have a local focus and serve the people of Kent sympathetically; and that costs would be carefully controlled.

What has actually happened is that the people running the society have taken anything but a mutual stance. They have paid themselves enormous salaries for a secure job with no risk. It is our business they are meant to be running, not theirs.

There have been expensive conferences for 'fact-finding'. Hardly a local Kentish attitude. Experiments on the money markets and as 'The Internet Bank' have left the society in a position where it is quite clear that, for the first time in its existence, it is in trouble.

It is unable to lend to local people sympathetically and anyone will get a far better deal from a Spanish bank, Santander, than from KRBS.

Now the idea is to simultaneously get KRBS out of the hole it has been digging for itself while making its managers richer than ever – by selling out our ('mutual for ever', remember) local building society for their fat profit. Anyone with investments or a mortgage with KRBS should protest and object strongly to this rotten proposal now – before it's too late.

Peers Carter, Southfleet

OPINION: THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE

Meaningful change and real democratic choice will require a fairer voting sytem than the AV offered under the referendum bill, says **STEVE DAWE** of Kent Green Party

IS DEMOCRACY about choice, or is it about voting for the party that does not happen to be in Government at present?

Given the strong similarities between the three major parties, voters may be entitled to wonder how they might get a real choice – between parties that are genuinely rather than just rhetorically different from each other.

There is the glimmer of a possibility of change in Parliament at the moment. Voters may get the chance to vote on a change to the Westminster electoral system if a bill currently moving through Parliament is passed. The proposed referendum would give voters the choice between the existing 'first past the post' electoral system and the alternative vote (AV) system, as used in Australia.

The key difference between the two is that voters rank candidates in order of preference (first, second, third etc). A candidate must get more than 50 per cent of the vote in the constituency to win.

If not, the second preferences are taken into account and the second placed candidate and the first have a second round, in which a second placed candidate can defeat the first placed one if the voters have indicated by their preferences that this is what they want.

This is no more difficult for the voter than the existing system, but does not deliver a proportional result. By this I mean it does not provide a result in line with how people actually voted across the country. A proportional result would be one in which 10 or 20 or 30 per cent of the UK vote delivered 10 or 20 or 30 per cent of the seats in Parliament. The only country in Europe which has a first past the post system like ours is Macedonia. Most democracies have proportional systems. The AV system being suggested by the proposed referendum is being used in Australia.

This system, like our existing electoral system, favours the largest parties – although a Green MP was elected under this system in the recent Australian election, just as one was in our most recent general election here – despite the obvious unfairness of the system. Because the coalition Government is unwilling to give us a choice of a fair, proportional system in the referendum, Caroline Lucas MP, leader of the Green Party, has tabled an amendment to increase the options in the referendum to include electoral systems which are actually proportional.

This may not, however, be selected for debate at the committee stage of the bill in October.

Unfortunately, real reform is being made difficult by opposition to proportional electoral systems in the two major parties. At present, we are only being offered a choice between two types of unfair system, with marginal differences between them. However, even this is too much for many Conservative and Labour MPs and members of the House of Lords, who are threatening to sabotage the bill in its committee and Lords stages.

The bill has passed its second reading, but may become mired in wrangling in future stages in Parliament. What would this mean in Kent? In an AV system, those Kent MPs with more than 50 per cent of the vote would still win.

Second preferences might change the result where the winning MP had less than 50 per cent of the vote, resulting in some Labour representation.

The Liberal Democrats are too far behind in the Kent constituencies for there to be much likelihood of their party winning a single seat. If, however, we had a proportional system, the results of elections might look very different.

Considering the Kent County Council elections in 2009, the Conservatives obtained 47 per cent of the vote in Kent and 74 out of 84 seats.

If this first past the post election had occurred using a proportional system, then the Conservatives would have had less than half the seats and Lib Dem, Labour and Green councillors, plus at least one independent in Greenhithe, would have made up the majority at County Hall.

Personally, if it comes to a vote, I shall have to vote no because I want real reform, not a change which means the results of general and local elections do not reflect how people actually voted.

• ***Steve Dawe is press officer for Kent Green Party.***

KOS media COMMENT

Time for us to stop raising the glass

ALCOHOL-related hospital admissions are on the up and yet many of us will still get home from work, pour a drink and unwind for the evening.

And there's nothing wrong with that.

But when figures show there are almost 10,000 more cases of people going to hospital as a result of booze than five years ago, it brings home the grim fact that alcohol is having more of an affect on society than people may want to admit.

Booze, it seems, has quietly become a staple in every day life.

Everyone knows the binge-drinking culture is thriving, but these figures take into account the 'just one more' people who might exceed the weekly amount just a little, or people who have drunk alcohol regularly their whole lives.

And these days, there are not many who can preach to others about drinking as the majority of people indulge, whether in large or small amounts.

People condemn illegal drug-taking – as they should – but because alcohol is legal, despite it being accountable for thousands of deaths each year, society accepts it as part and parcel of life.

The NHS can't force people not to drink and it shouldn't, but it can advise people how to be sensible.

If after a heavy night your body's not telling you to lay off the booze, think about the damage it is doing.

Because if figures continue to rise as they have in the past few years, there's going to be one hell of a queue at the hospital.

Churches change their publicity tune

GONE are the days when the church bells would wake you from your morning slumber to persuade you to go to church.

Now, church leaders will lure you through the radio waves.

It seems even the church needs to rely on a bit of good old publicity to draw in the Sunday morning crowds.

Skill of crews is not in doubt

Opponents of the plan to move women's and children's services out of Maidstone Hospital have never doubted the skills of ambulance teams transferring patients safely.

Our worries are for many of the 2,000 pregnant women in labour a year and 1,000 inpatient children from Maidstone who will more likely be in the cars of loved ones. They will have to make the journey from Maidstone to Pembury Hospital over difficult country roads, not made easier now there will be no progress on improvements on the A21 and Colts Hill bypass. In addition about 30 per cent of women in a proposed new midwife-led birthing unit at Maidstone will need transfers to consultant-led hospitals. Our survey shows more than 90 per cent of Maidstone area GPs oppose the plan and, under patient choice, expect less than half their patients to go to Pembury. The secretary of state, with his new criteria, has little option now but to refuse this appalling proposal.

Dennis Fowle, chairman, Maidstone Action for Services in Hospital

Cyclists were not too bright

I had to drive from Kennington in Ashford to the station on a Wednesday evening to pick someone up. On the way I saw at least four cyclists without any lights whatsoever, all dressed in dark clothing, no reflective jacket, nothing. They were difficult to see. Could we have some safety warnings, please. Darker evenings are drawing in.

Ted Prangnell, Ashford

Flood disaster a top priority

As county councillors, Julie Rook and Kit Smith were disturbed by the recent localised flooding in Deal and have been in contact with Kent Highways in an effort to resolve drainage issues and, hopefully, reduce the risk of such a disastrous event happening again.

After a meeting on September 2, it has been agreed Kent Highways staff will be in Deal from September 20, where they will investigate and map the surface water and Southern Water systems in the problem areas. Once the issues have been identified and a system and strategy agreed, Kent Highways will apply for road closures to carry out the works which they envisage will be at least four months for all the sites. Kit and I wish to assure residents of our utmost attention in this matter and understand that this is a very frustrating time, particularly with the uncertainty around whether this may happen again. We, like you, want peace of mind and will work with Kent Highways to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

We would welcome information about the location of problem areas, just in case there are some we are not aware of. Any emergency flood situations should be reported on KCC 24-hour helpline: 08458 247247.

Cllr Julie Rook, Deal

Red Ensign is UK's lifeline

September 3 was Merchant Navy Day, yet many public buildings were not flying the Red Ensign.

Why not? Our island nation seems to have forgotten about the Merchant Navy and its part in bringing food to our table and goods to our homes. Ships carry 92 per cent of our international trade and 24 per cent of internal trade goes by coastal shipping, thus relieving our crowded roads and railways of freight.

The UK population has become sea-blind. Early signs are that the defence review will give us a still smaller Royal Navy, with fewer ships. This will mean the Navy's important everyday task – in both peacetime and war – of policing the sea lanes, our nation's lifelines, will be harder.

Admiral Lord Nelson wrote, in 1804: "I consider the protection of our trade the most essential service that can be performed." We forget those wise words at our peril, for maritime piracy is a reality and not just the stuff of Hollywood.

The lack of interest in flying the Red Ensign is a signal. It should be a wake-up call.

Lester May, Lieutenant-Commander RN, Camden Town

Steps towards healthy future

There is strong scientific evidence that regular physical activity reduces the risk of developing cancer later in life.

One of the easiest ways to be active is walking. That's why the World Cancer Research Fund has launched its Walking Together campaign, which involves people supporting us by organising sponsored walks.

Money raised will fund our research and raise awareness that people can reduce their risk of cancer by eating healthily, being active and maintaining a healthy weight. We also hope it will encourage people to get into the habit of walking as part of their daily lives.

To find out more, email events@wcrf.org or call 020 7343 4205. You can also visit www.wcrf-uk.org/walk.

Sian Fraser, WCRF

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Game superfood hitting the shops

October 1 heralds the official start of the pheasant shooting season. As the season gets into full swing, there will be plenty of affordable, locally-sourced and tasty game meat available.

Described by TV chef Mike Robinson as a "superfood", it is healthy, sustainable and highly nutritious. The popularity of game has been increasing over recent years and independent market researcher Mintel says annual sales should reach more than £84 million by next year. The UK's largest shooting organisation, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) runs an innovative game promotion campaign which we have extended this year due to popular demand. Watch out for events taking place as part of BASC's National Taste of Game Fortnight, from November 6-20.

Shoot providers spend £250 million a year on conservation and shooting is involved in the management of two-thirds of the rural land area. So if you fancy trying game and would like some more details and some easy recipes, visit www.gameson.org.uk.

Debbie Collins, British Association for Shooting and Conservation

The peak oil facts are being evaded

The Government has investigated the issue of 'peak oil' – the global peak of cheap, recoverable oil supplies – and is fighting off Freedom of Information act requests on its findings.

Kent Green Party has written to all Kent MPs asking that they demand the Government release all of its research findings, minutes of meetings and related material on peak oil. The German armed forces investigated peak oil and concluded that supplies will peak this year, 2010. Their report, leaked to the German media, is clearly concerned about public reactions to the impacts of peak oil upon prices.

Why is this of vital importance to the future of Kent and Medway? Our small towns and rural communities, and years of neglect of public transport services, make us very prone to car dependence and we have expensive bus and rail fares.

UK rail fares are actually the highest in the world. At a time when a double dip recession is possible, a continued rise in oil prices could choke off economic recovery by radically increasing household, business and public sector costs. The public is entitled to know what the Government is deliberately hiding from us about peak oil.

We urge the public and the media in Kent and Medway to lobby their MPs to bring the Government's data about peak oil into the public domain.

Dr Hazel Dawe, Kent Green Party

Protecting ponds

A free introduction day for prospective members of the Kent Pond Warden scheme will be held at the Singleton Environment Centre, Wesley School Road, Singleton, Ashford, on Saturday, October 9.

Kent BTCV needs more volunteers to help protect the many ponds throughout the county that are in danger of disappearing or becoming uninhabitable to fauna and flora.

Volunteers will be trained to carry out essential conservation tasks and become involved in surveying and managing ponds.

For details, contact Virginia Hodge on 01233 666519, email v.hodge@btcv.org.uk or visit www.btcv.org/kent.

Paul Tritton, Kent BTCV

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Amount of credit	£20,265.48
Total charge for credit	£2,798.52
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Model CLC 160 BlueEFFICIENCY Sport with metallic paint	
Monthly Payment*	£299
On the road price	£20,590.00
Customer deposit	£2,999.00
Retailer Deposit contribution**	£643.15
Total Deposit	£3,642.15
Number of payments	36
Optional purchase payment***	£10,075.00
Amount of credit	£16,947.85
Total charge for credit	£2,726.15
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Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ALMEIDA ALVES
Sergio and Vania and their Son Leonardo are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter and sister Anne Louise, born on 1st September 2010 weighing 3.190kg. You are the miracle we have longed for and we will treasure forever.

BERRIDGE
Annabel and Martin Berridge celebrate the birth of their daughter Alysia Lily Berridge on 23rd August 2010,

CAMPBELL
Rose Esther born on 23rd August 2010 weighing 7lbs 1.5ozs. Daughter to Karl Claringbold and Laura Campbell in Deal.

DEAKIN
Ryan and Kelly of Faversham wish to announce the birth of Rion George Deakin on 1st August 2010, brother to Chloe, Kaideen and Toby.

MILLS
Beren and Sharon Mills of Minster, Ramsgate, celebrate the birth of their daughter Elodie Arwen Mills on 8th August 2010.

USHER
Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

WARRAICH
It is with great happiness that we announce the birth of our son, Rasheed Ahmed Warraich. He was born on 18.8.2010. He finally arrived after three lovely sisters and is named in loving memory of his grandfather, who died just two weeks before his birth. Dr Sadaf Rashid and K.N. Warraich.

DEATHS

BIRKBY
Joseph William Birkby born 19/10/33, husband of Patricia Kathleen Birkby, sadly passed away 02/09/10. Much loved, husband, dad, brother and grandad, missed already. Funeral to take place Wednesday 15/09/2010 at Vinters Park 1:15pm. All Welcome.

SMITH
Jack. Passed away at Kent and Cantebury Hospital on Friday 3rd September at 12.15pm with his family by his side.

If you have an announcement you would like to advertise

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Email: **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**
Online: **www.kentnews.co.uk**

Virtual learning opens up doors

A CHILDCARE training specialist is offering a wide range of qualifications to potential learners throughout Kent.

JACE Training runs both face-to-face group sessions and an 'online virtual environment' covering all childcare qualifications from level 1 through to level 4 in early years and playwork.

It also delivers training for qualifications in business administration and customer service, with IT qualifications available online.

Call the Ashford office on 01233 627541 or email info@jace-training.co.uk.

Training gives carer a boost

A CARER who left school without any qualifications has won the Outstanding Learner Award from learndirect.

Shaun Drake, from Folkestone, spent his early years caring for his terminally ill mother and later suffered from anxiety and depression due to a lack of social skills.

However, he turned his life around and recently achieved qualifications in both English and maths.

Mr Drake said: "I couldn't see a light at the end of the tunnel back then, but with learndirect's help I got my confidence back and thought 'I can do this'.

"I went on to get my qualifications and now I have a full-time job helping people with mental health problems."

DUNGENESS B power station is backing a new internship programme at Folkestone School for Girls.

The school approached Dungeness B to speak at a special event for the students to raise awareness of health and safety in the workplace ahead of starting their internship programme.

The Year 11 students will spend one day a week with a local company for six months to gain awareness of how companies work.

Sign up for another way to converse

Course helps you grasp the basics

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DEAF people and their families are among those taking advantage of a sign language course run by Medway Adult and Community Learning Service (MACLS).

Record numbers of people are putting their names down for the programme, which is run by British Sign Language tutors at the MACLS centres in Rochester, Gillingham, Rainham and Hoo.

The basic five-week course is taught to national standards and teaches students how to sign the alphabet, colours, names and greetings.

They are then given the option to take an advanced programme lasting 31 weeks with the potential to earn a level one qualification at the end.

"The British Sign Language classes are part of a wide range of courses available through MACLS," said Cllr Howard Doe, portfolio holder for community services at Medway Council.

"MACLS is committed to giving everyone the chance to learn something, whether it's a new skill or just for fun.

"I would encourage anyone, no matter what age, to get in touch and sign up for a course."

The next batch of sign language sessions runs from next month, with a five-week course starting at Rainham on Monday, October 4, and another the day after in Hoo.

Both cost £30 for the full course.

Benefit

Among those already benefiting from the training are mother-and-son duo Krystyna and James Shirley.

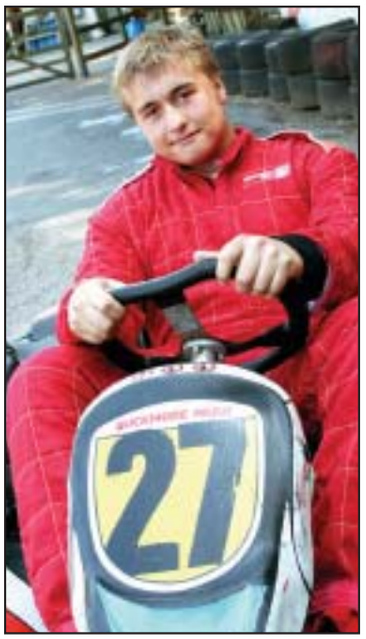
"I've decided to learn sign language as my hearing is deteriorating," said Krystyna. "I'm learning with my son so we can still converse with each other."

However, the course is not just for the hard of hearing and their families.

"I want to be a speech and language teacher and thought this would be another string to my bow," said pupil Joanna Macguire.

"I wasn't sure what type of people would be here but there's a good mix. We all have different reasons for being here and I think that adds to the experience."

Visit www.medway.gov.uk/adultlearning or call 01634 338400 for more information.



IN GEAR: 15-year-old Michael King gets ready to take his kart out for a spin

Track day fun for young mechanics

TEENAGERS studying motor mechanics at MidKent College's Maidstone Campus celebrated the end of their course with a fun day at Buckmore Park karting circuit.

The 14 to 16-year-olds are all pupils at the New Line Learning and Cornwallis academies, and have been studying once a week at Buckmore for the past year.

College motor vehicle lecturer Terry Coombes said: "The award these pupils have been studying for gives them a good basis of knowledge in motor mechanics and prepares them for full-time motor vehicle training, if that's what they choose to do once they have left school."

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Due to the complete refurbishment of our Folkestone branch we need to fill the following vacancies.

Workshop Controller
We require the services of a qualified technician to run our busy multi franchise workshop. Previous experience in this role would be preferred but not essential, the successful candidate needs to be energetic, have good technical knowledge, be able to organise a very busy workshop, have basic IT skills and leadership qualities.

Service Advisor
An experienced Service Advisor is needed for our busy front counter. Experience in one of our franchises would be beneficial but not essential. The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure and have good people skills. The role includes serving customers on a day to day basis and advising on work required so some mechanical knowledge would be an advantage.

Customer Care Assistant
This role involves maintaining our excellent customer satisfaction index, calling customers to book MOTs and services. Contacting customers after they have visited KAP to ensure they our happy with any work carried out by us and are completely satisfied. Running daily CSI and workshop diary reports. The successful applicant would need to have basic IT skills with a good knowledge of excel, and have a good phone manner with an upbeat personality.

Parts Assistant
This role requires sourcing and distribution of parts for our busy workshop and dealing with retail enquiries from the front parts counter. Ford experience would be a distinct advantage but not essential. The successful applicant would need to be hard working, honest and have some knowledge of the motor parts industry with the flexibility to work on weekends.

The successful applicants for the above positions will be working for a well established multi-franchise dealership, benefits include a generous remuneration package and a fantastic opportunity to further their career within the motor industry.

To apply please contact Lynda Brazier on 01303249656 or email lynda.brazier@kapmotorgroup.co.uk

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KAP Motor Group
www.kapmotorgroup.co.uk

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Attention: **Sharon**

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For more information telephone Bobby 07790924436 or info@thebankrestaurantandbar.co.uk

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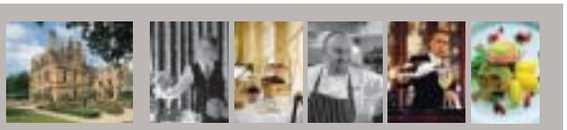

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Please quote job reference **KOSC1** on your application.

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Jason Pyne, Development Director
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.
Or by email: jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

About us
KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

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Kos Media is one of the fastest growing multi media companies serving the county of Kent.

We publish 14 weekly titles including the award winning Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday, as well 20 news websites.

We are looking to expand our promotional activity in the West of the county, promoting Tunbridge Wells on Saturday and Tunbridge Wells on Sunday, and are looking for a merchandiser for the area, to ensure that these products are displayed, and promoted in a professional way.

The duties will include visiting newsagents and outlets and also handing out promotional copies in the centre of Tunbridge Wells, and surrounding area.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible, and self motivated, as well as having good communication skills. The hours will be 10 hours per week with a hourly rate of £7.50, mileage will also be paid.

To apply please contact **Barbara Coker** on **01303 817072**
or email **barbara.coker@kosmedia.co.uk**

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For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 24.9.2010

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EMAIL: office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk - WEBSITE: www.fiveacrewood.org.uk

Paediatric Specialist Physiotherapist

Five Acre Wood is a successful outward looking and expanding school currently with 166 pupils aged 4-19 years with profound severe and complex needs. The school will be expanding to provide for 210 pupils.

We have a vacancy for a term time only Physiotherapist, working 32½ hours a week.
Pay will be on Kent Scheme Bands 8/9 (equivalent to NHS Band 6).
Our future colleague will:
Be a very good practitioner and effective communicator
Have a desire to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential
Have a commitment to working closely with families and with colleagues
Be excited by the prospect of working in an expanding community
We will offer you:
Inspiring and enthusiastic pupils - The opportunity to help to shape the future school
Openness and support from caring colleagues - A creative and innovative environment

If this opportunity is for you please contact Maria on 01622 743925 for an information pack.
Closing date: Friday 24th September 2010 - Interview date to be arranged

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB
Five Acre Wood is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.

Paediatric Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Five Acre Wood is a successful outward looking and expanding school currently with 166 pupils aged 4-19 years with profound severe and complex needs. The school will be expanding to provide for 210 pupils.

We have a vacancy for a term time only Speech and Language Therapist, working 32½ hours a week.
Pay will be on Kent Scheme Bands 8/9 (equivalent to NHS Band 6).
Our future colleague will:
Be a very good practitioner and effective communicator
Have a desire to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential
Have a commitment to working closely with families and with colleagues
Be excited by the prospect of working in an expanding community
We will offer you:
Inspiring and enthusiastic pupils - The opportunity to help to shape the future school
Openness and support from caring colleagues - A creative and innovative environment

If this opportunity is for you please contact Maria on 01622 743925 for an information pack.
Closing date: Friday 24th September 2010 - Interview date to be arranged

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB.
Five Acre Wood is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.

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Teachers Needed

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Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

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- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
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- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
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or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

HEAD TEACHER

(Group 1) Salary Scale: L1 – L18
St. John's Church of England VC Infant School,
4 New Street, Chatham. ME4 6RH Tel: (01634) 844135

Following retirement, our friendly, one-form entry school in central Chatham needs a caring, enthusiastic and forward-thinking head-teacher, starting January 2011. With a strong Christian ethos, the school celebrates cultural diversity, working closely with the local community, the local Parish Church and as a feeder school with Balfour Junior School. The new head teacher will value and develop these relationships. With proven management experience at KS1, you will build and manage a team to continue a 148 year tradition of excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in a "happy and harmonious atmosphere" (Ofsted 2009).

Come and visit ***"The Village School in the Heart of Medway"***

Please phone Mrs. L. Day at the school from 1st September to make an appointment.

St. John's Infant School is committed to safeguarding young people. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Applications will only be accepted by application form and supporting letter. References will be taken up before interviews, to be held during the week beginning 27th September.

For an application pack, please contact: Susan Bowers, HR Services, Schools, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Kent ME4 4TR Tel: (01634) 331100 email susan.bowers@medway.gov.uk

Starting date: **1st January 2011**
Closing date for applications: **1pm Friday 17th September**

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To advertise in this section ✆ **01303 817040**

CHRIST THE KING SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Christ the King is a heavily over subscribed Catholic College. We have one site located on the border of Blackheath, Lewisham and have recently opened a new site in Sidcup. We are a significant provider of post 16 education in the local area enjoying a reputation for excellence. In 2010 the A level pass rate was 98% and the BTEC pass rates were 100%. Ofsted have judged this Beacon College as outstanding for quality of provision. The College has Category A financial status.

Applications are invited for the following posts to start in October 2010

CHRIST THE KING COLLEGE: ST MARY'S (SIDCUP)

CURRICULUM LEADER FOR SCIENCE £41,180-£43,701 inclusive

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a popular department at this Beacon College. You will oversee the work of a team of staff and manage the learning of students taking courses in A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Science and GCSE.

Whether you are an experienced leader or a colleague seeking promotion to such a post for the first time, you should be passionate about education and supporting the achievement of young people. You should set high standards for yourself and others, and have produced excellent results in your subject.

If you have a successful track record in this curriculum area and are keen to develop your career in a post-16 environment, we would very much welcome your application.

PART TIME TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/Threshold is also paid as appropriate

We are looking to appoint a talented, enthusiastic teacher to deliver Psychology and Sociology up to A Level, with the ability to teach BTEC First and Applied Level Health and Social Care in addition. You will work over two to three days and will be part of a supportive team of teachers.

PART TIME TEACHER OF BIOLOGY £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/Threshold is also paid as appropriate

An opportunity has arisen to join the Science team on this site, specialising in the delivery of AS/A2 Biology over one or two days. You should be an enthusiastic, motivated colleague who has the ability to support students in achieving their potential in this subject area.

PART TIME LAY CHAPLAIN £24,761- £29,221 inclusive (pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint a new member of our highly accomplished Chaplaincy Team. You will work mainly at St Mary's, with flexibility across both sites, from 10.00 am - 2.30 pm over 5 days per week for 40 weeks per year. Salary is based upon qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be a practising Catholic with excellent interpersonal, communication and organisational skills.

PART TIME CAREERS GUIDANCE OFFICER £26,802 inclusive (pro rata)

You will work three days per week, initially two days at St Mary's and one day at Lewisham. You will be able to provide high quality, current HE and careers advice. The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and organisational skills.

FITNESS AND SPORTS INSTRUCTOR £15,770 inclusive (pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, energetic and flexible sports coordinator who will be involved with sports enrichment activities at the St Mary's site. This would include running the College's new fitness suite and a recognised fitness qualification is essential. The successful candidate should be able to engage with and motivate 16-18 year old learners. This post will be for one term in the first instance, from 9.00 am – 4.30 pm over 5 days per week.

There is a pay review pending at 1st September 2010

For an application form and further details visit our website at www.ctksfc.ac.uk Alternatively please contact:

The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BE
Telephone: 020 8309 4760 Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: dba@ctksfc.ac.uk

Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

The College is committed to be an equal opportunities employer

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

- **Lecturer in Engineering**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Community Education**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in ESOL**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Life and Employability**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality**
  Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Leader – Trowel Trades**
  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Leader – Hair**
  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Leader – Foundation Life and Employability (Entry)**
  Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Trowel Trades Technician**
  Salary scale: £7,990 - £8,896 for 18.5 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010

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Accountancy

Jobs in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks
Salary £neg
We are currently expanding our candidate database in the Sevenoaks area. Should you be looking for permanent or temporary employment and would like to register your details with us then please email your CV to us, along with your salary expectation, and positions considered. Full time, part time, permanent, contract and temporary.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1699

Accountant

Folkestone
Salary From £25k p.a.
Do you have the commitment to Folkestone's regeneration that we need at the heart of our organisation? Do you have the breadth of accountancy skills to thrive in a busy and varied environment? The Creative Foundation organises arts festivals and manages a property portfolio through its charitable arm, and controls the trading arm which runs Quarterhouse, a multi-arts venue. We need an experienced Accountant, at least part qualified, to join our Finance Director and Accounts Assistant, to provide accounting support from basic input through to credit control and monthly management reporting. For more information about our work, please see www.creativefoundation.org.uk www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk www.quarterhouse.co.uk For more details about the job and application process, please see: http://www.creativefoundation.org.uk/job_opportunities1.html We have retained Year One Consulting to support this recruitment; you can call them on 01227 811 777 for an informal discussion. Closing date: 12noon 1st October 2010 Interviews: w/c 11th October 2010 We welcome applicants from all sectors of the community.

Administration, Secretarial, PA

OFFICE MANAGER

Birchington
Salary Negotiable
Independent Teachers of TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION (Simple, effortless Yoga for the mind) REQUIRE OFFICE MANAGER Job Share, 16 hours weekly rising to 24. One morning a week plus afternoons. Also covering mornings for holidays and other absence. Flexible and enthusiastic individual able to work with our current Office Manager to support our small but growing team of professional teachers covering Britain and Ireland. Requires efficiency and skill to develop the office management; sympathetic telephone manner with enquirers and energetic promotional skills with partners such as doctors, therapists, yoga teachers, business and the media. A varied and challenging position, but low- stress as there are, at present, no staff to manage! REQUIRES experience of Microsoft Office and Outlook, plus lively practical knowledge of use of the most up to date computer program’s. APPLICATIONS WITH C.V. TO: Colin & Sue Beckley, Directors, The Meditation Trust, 51 Station Road, Birchington, CT7 9DJ FOR INFO PACK ABOUT TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION COURSES CALL 01843 841010

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Jobs in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks
Salary £neg
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1699

Office Assistant

Tunbridge Wells
Salary Starting Salary £11,000 DRAKES PLUMBING SUPPLIES LTD TUNBRIDGE WELLS FULL TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT We are looking for an organised individual to join our busy Accounts Office team. Duties will include checking, matching, inputting and filing supplier invoices and credits, liaising with suppliers, and other general office duties. Computer literacy and full clean driving licence are essential. Starting salary £11,000. Please call Alisoun Aisher or Pat Bonner for an application form on 01892 55 99 15, or e-mail mail@drakes.biz
No agencies or canvassing

Administrator

Bearsted
Salary Competitive Rate of Pay BARTY HOUSE NURSING HOME, BEARSTED ADMINISTRATOR (Full Time Temporary) Applicants should be of smart appearance, possess excellent organisational skills, have a good telephone manner and people skills, together with good computer ability (Microsoft Office). Competitive rate of pay.
For more information please contact Jacqui Butler on 01622 737025 or email cv to jacqui.butler@canfordhealthcare.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Barty House Nursing Home
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Litigation Secretary

Gravesend
Salary Salary Negotiable
Martin Tolhurst Solicitors in Gravesend are looking to recruit a full time experienced Litigation Secretary. Please apply enclosing CV and covering letter to Cathanne Craigie - Personnel ManagerMartin Tolhurst Partnership LLP7 Wrotham Road Gravesend Kent DA11 0PD
Email - ccraigie@martintolhurst.co.ukTelephone - 01474 546018 Closing date 17 September 2010

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary £12,500 - £26,500
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary TBC
FULL-TIME (PART-TIME CONSIDERED) Working hours are: Mon - Thu 6.20am - 6pm (2 hour lunch break) Fri 6.20am - midday (depending on workload) Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre.The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics), basic computer skills are preferable and some experience in a similar role although full training will be given, • Hard working and motivated, • Enthusiastic and committed, • Organised and efficient, • Works well within a team, • Thrives on self improvement and success If you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing and you have what it takes to make this role your own, please apply in writing with your CV to: Monique Verlaan, HR Manager, The Wellness Practice Ltd, 30 Whitstable Road, Blean nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Part-time Customer Relations Manager

Sevenoaks
Salary £23,500 pro rata
Part-time Customer Relations Manager £23,500 pro rata20 - 30 hours per week (flexible) | Sevenoaks Working as part of a small team at our Head Office in Sevenoaks, we are seeking a confident and pro-active individual with an outgoing and professional manner to deliver a first-class service in resolving any guest complaints promptly and fairly. You will liaise closely with our hotel teams and will need to possess the ability to influence senior colleagues. As well as strong organisational skills you must possess strong written and oral communication skills. Your natural approach is polite, tactful, friendly and assertive. Problem solving and decision making will assist in your ability to handle complaints and difficult situations. You will maintain the database so computer literacy is essential and as our business is multi-site and speed is important, much of the work is telephone and e-mail based. In addition, you will be required to provide general administration support and assistance to the office team. Hand Picked Hotels is a collection of 17 luxury country house hotels throughout the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. With welcoming and charming service delivered in the inspirational surroundings of magnificent country house hotels, our guests are encouraged to feel at home, relax, kick off their shoes and indulge! Not only are we famous for fantastic buildings and locations, but we are also creating an enviable reputation for high standards of food and drink recognised by the achievement of AA Rosettes in all of our 17 hotels. The role is a temporary position covering maternity leave. Hours are flexible (to be agreed in advance), spread over five days, Monday-Friday. To apply, please forward your CV with covering letter detailing your current remuneration package to: Keely Dobinson at kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk or by post to: Hand Picked Hotels Ltd, The Old Library, The Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AB. Closing date for applications is 4th October 2010. www.handpicked.co.uk

Art and Design

Graphics Assistant

Folkestone
Salary £13,125 p.a. (based on £17.5k full-time)
To apply/more information:
Cognitive Media
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Chef

Sittingbourne
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Upchurch River Valley Golf Course Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Bexley Heath
Salary Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Waitstaff required for restaurant in Bexley Heath. Would suit someone looking to advance their career. Must have necessary qualifications. For more information tel. Bobby 07790924436 or info@thebankrestaurantandbar.co.uk

Waitstaff

Bexley Heath
Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Waitstaff required for restaurant in Bexley Heath. Would suit someone looking to advance their career. Must have necessary qualifications. For more information tel. Bobby 07790924436 or info@thebankrestaurantandbar.co.uk

Waiting Staff

Faversham
Salary Negotiable Martin's Restaurant Near Faversham require Part time waiting staff 2 or 3 sessions per week Silver Service preferred but not essential as training given For more information please contact Paul or Julie - Tel: 01227 750304

Child Care

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
We are currently looking to employ Nursery Nurses/Assistants! Day-to-Day supply work in and around the Maidstone area. Term time and throughout the holidays! MUST HAVE either 2 years experience in a nursery setting or NVQ Level 2 or equivelant. Very good rates of pay!!! + NEW Loyalty Scheme! NOTE: This is NOT an advert for a permanent post.
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

4 x Care Assistants Needed!!

Medway/Maidstone
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: Care

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED

Kent
Salary £115 per day
Are you looking for supply work? We have a shortage of Primary teachers across the whole of Kent! We are turning down work from schools as we have a shortage across both key stages. All applicants must have the relevant teaching qualifications. NQTs welcome! Excellent pay rates! + NEW Loyalty Scheme! Visit our new website at www.education-sense.com or email CVs to kturner@education-sense.com.
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Curtain Wall Fixers

Hastings
Salary Salary Negotiable
Curtain Wall Fixers required, must have CSCS and relevant tickets, for upcoming contract in Hastings. Please call on 02392 595757 to apply.
To apply/more information:
NA Curtain Walling Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Bricklayers

Kent
Salary Salary Negotiable
BRICKLAYERS Required
Minimum of 5 years experience
Local and London work Wages and hours to be discussed Must have CSCS For more information please call
Brian on 0845 5213236

Customer Service, Call Centre

Jobs in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks
Salary £neg
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1699

Customer Services Supervisor

Maidstone
Salary £18,709 - £21,994 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ref: P0070

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Part-time Customer Relations Manager

Sevenoaks
Salary £23,500 pro rata
To apply/more information:
Hand Picked Hotels
kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic

Cleaner

Sittingbourne
Salary TBA
To apply/more information:
Forward Care
forward@tiscali.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Private Domestic Cleaners

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
House Fairies (The)
thehousefairies@tiscali.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Early Morning Cleaners

Canterbury
Salary Good rates of pay
Early morning cleaners required, For retail store Canterbury. Good rates of pay, to apply Please call 01543 418855

Domestic Trades

Painters/Decorators

Ramsgate
Salary TBA
CIS & CSCS Essential. Immediate Start. Tel: 01279 400580.
To apply/more information:
Markwell Park UK Limited
Karen.bond@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Bathroom Installer

Swale
Salary Competitive
Bathroom Installer Required on a C.I.S. Basis Must be able to plum (No Push Fit) and tile to the highest standards. Must also be able to install bathroom furniture and undertake bathroom related carpentry work also to the highest standards. Majority of work is in the swale area Must have proof of previous work and references will be required. Competitive rates Email applications to dave.geere@sepd.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

HEAD TEACHER

Chatham
Salary Salary Scale: L1 ,Äì L18
To apply/more information:
St Johns CE Infants School
office@stjohns.medway.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Hairdressing

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Holistic Therapies

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Nail Technology/Make-Up

Broadstairs
Salary £25,589 - £30,205
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Advisor

Broadstairs
Salary Basic Salary £15k
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Guidance Worker

Broadstairs
Salary £19,659 - £23,040
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Learning Support Practitioners

Broadstairs
Salary £7.06 - £7.70 per hour
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Functional Skills

Broadstairs
Salary £19,297 - £22,863
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Assistant

Ashford
Salary TBC
Community Assistant KS5
To apply/more information:
The North School
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lecturer in Electrical Installation

Medway
Salary £28,463 - £32,251
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: P0357

Customer Services Supervisor

Maidstone
Salary £18,709 - £21,994 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ref: P0070

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

ALL SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS

Kent
Salary Great Rates + Loyalty Scheme
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: ASEN

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

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01303 817040

ALL NURSERY NURSES URGENTLY NEEDED

Maidstone
Salary £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: NNUR

ALL PRIMARY TEACHERS NEEDED

Kent
Salary £115 per day
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PRI1

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Medway
Salary £15,039-£19,126 pro-rata
To apply/more information:
Abbey Court School
tayll036@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Vehicle Technician

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
BAILEYS NISSAN Require a vehicle technician,Nissan Experiance & Mot tester an Advantage but not essential. Contact David Jackson -Service Manager 01227 766777 david.jackson@baileysnissan.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Baileys Nissan
d1136@dp@nissan.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Jobs in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks
Salary £neg
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1699

R&D Manager

Margate
Salary £49-55K + Benefits
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Windows Software Engineer

Margate
Salary £39-45K
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Hardware Design Engineer

Margate
Salary £39-45K
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

R&D Test Engineer

Margate
Salary £29-35K
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Fabricators x 2

Maidstone
Salary Good Rates of Pay
To apply/more information:
Leay
lorraine.harris@leay.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Estimator

Maidstone
Salary Competitive Package
To apply/more information:
Leay
lorraine.harris@leay.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Demand Planner

West Kent
Salary c£28,000
A rare opportunity to work in a medium sized but fast moving subsidiary of a multi-national organisation. With a minimum of 3 years experience gained working as a demand planner within the FMCG environment you will have advanced excel and excellent communication skills. Knowledge of S&OP processes and long range forecasting is essential with knowledge of forecasting tools, resource planning software, SAP and Manugistics an advantage. French linguistic skills are desirable but not essential.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1700

Health & Beauty

HAIRSTYLIST

Ashford

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Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Antoniou Hair & Beauty
cathy@ahbgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Hair Stylists

Medway
Salary TBC
En-Vi EXPERIENCED HAIR STYLISTS (male and female) required for Salon. Contact Claire on 01634 840880 or email claire1ice@hotmail.co.uk
To apply/more information:
En-Vi
claire1ice@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Experienced Fabricators x 2

Maidstone
Salary Good Rates of Pay
To apply/more information:
Leay
lorraine.harris@leay.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Estimator

Maidstone
Salary Competitive Package
To apply/more information:
Leay
lorraine.harris@leay.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Windows Software Engineer

Margate
Salary £39-45K
TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer for Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets. We are looking for 4 candidates to work as part of a growing R&D team located in East Kent, primarily focused on High Definition video conversion systems based around our proprietary CORIO® technology. Windows Software Engineer - £39-45K Primarily responsible for the design and development of Windows & Web based technologies to control our range of video processing products. Key Skills: Fluent in Visual studio C# / Visual Basic; Experience of designing GUI's with timeline functionality; Web Development To apply contact: Amanda Holges, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG Tel: 01843 873300
recruit.europe@tvone.com
http://www.tvone.eu
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Legal

Experienced Litigation Secretary

Gravesend
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Martin Tolhurst Partnership Solicitors
ccraigie@martintolhurst.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Debt Collectors

Gravesend, Medway & Dover
Salary Top Commission Paid
To apply/more information:
Lewis Group
rmcgreevy@lewisgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Experienced Hair Stylists

Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
En-Vi
claire1ice@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Sittingbourne
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Upchurch River Valley Golf Course Ltd
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Bexley Heath
Salary Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Waitstaff required for restaurant in Bexley Heath. Would suit someone looking to advance their career. Must have necessary qualifications. For more information tel. Bobby 07790924436 or info@thebankrestaurantandbar.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Bank Restaurant and Bar (The)
info@bankrestaurantandbar.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Waitstaff

Bexley Heath
To apply/more information:
Bank Restaurant and Bar (The)
info@bankrestaurantandbar.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part-time Customer Relations Manager

Sevenoaks
Salary £23,500 pro rata
To apply/more information:
Hand Picked Hotels
kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

HEAD TEACHER

Chatham
Salary Scale: L1 , L18
To apply/more information:
St Johns CE Infants School
office@stjohns.medway.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

OFFICE MANAGER

Birchington
Salary Negotiable
Independent Teachers of TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION (Simple, effortless Yoga for the mind) REQUIRE OFFICE MANAGER Job Share, 16 hours weekly rising to 24. One morning a week plus afternoons. Also covering mornings for holidays and other absence. Flexible and enthusiastic individual able to work with our current Office Manager to support our small but growing team of professional teachers covering Britain and Ireland. Requires efficiency and skill to develop the office management; sympathetic telephone manner with enquirers and energetic promotional skills with partners such as doctors, therapists, yoga teachers, business and the media. A varied and challenging position, but low- stress as there are, at present, no staff to manage! REQUIRES experience of Microsoft Office and Outlook, plus lively practical knowledge of use of the most up to date computer program’s. APPLICATIONS WITH C.V. TO: Colin & Sue Beckley, Directors, The Meditation Trust, 51 Station Road, Birchington, CT7 9DJ FOR INFO PACK ABOUT TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION COURSES CALL 01843 841010

R&D Manager

Margate
Salary £49-55K + Benefits
TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer for Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets. We are looking for 4 candidates to work as part of a growing R&D team located in East Kent, primarily focused on High Definition video conversion systems based around our proprietary CORIO® technology. R&D Manager - £49-55K + Benefits Primarily responsible for the Project, Product and Personnel Management of the R&D Department including Customer liaison for OEM products and bespoke design. Key Skills: Experience in Team Leading/Management of R&D team; Good Project Management skills; Good Systems Design knowledge To apply contact: Amanda Holges, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach,Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG Tel: 01843 873300
recruit.europe@tvone.com
http://www.tvone.eu
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

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JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Windows Software Engineer

Margate
Salary £39-45K
To apply/more information:
TVOne
recruit.europe@tvone.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary 12,500-26,500 depending on skils
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Motor Trade, Driver

Vehicle Technician

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Baileys Nissan
d1136@dp@nissan.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Class 1 Day Driver

Aylesford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Castledene Transport
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Class 1 Night Drivers

Aylesford
Salary Negotiable
Castledene Transport requires Class 1 Day & Class 1 Night Drivers based in Aylesford. Immediate start, regular overtime. Call Matt 01622 710711.
To apply/more information:
Castledene Transport
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Class 1 or 2 Drivers

Aylesham
Salary £1600 per month
To apply/more information:
B & M Express Freight
info@bmexpressfreight.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Not for profit, Charities

HELPLINE CO-ORDINATOR

Northfleet
Salary £8,400 per annum
Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services (ADSS) is the lead provider of practical and emotional support to people with dementia and their carers in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley areas. HELPLINE CO-ORDINATOR - JOB SHARE To jointly manage a 24 hour helpline for people with dementia and their carers developing its access to cover all of Kent & Medway. To recruit, train and support the helpline volunteer team. To promote the helpline and increase uptake of the service 17.5 hours per week (over 2 days) - £8,400 per annum plus mileage. This is a joint initiative with the Alzheimer's Society Kent & Medway Locality Closing date for completed applications is 20th September 2010 In the first instance, please call the ADSS office on 01474 533990.
To apply/more information:
Alzheimers & Dementia Support
adminadss@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accountant

Folkestone
Salary From £25k p.a.
To apply/more information:
Creative Foundation
nick@creativefoundation.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Experienced Care Staff

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Experienced Care Staff Required for family run residential care home Minimum requirement MVQ2 Good rates of pay, dependant of experience For more information, contact Amanda on 01227 721527.
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Support Workers

West Kent
Salary TBC
COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED FOR EXPANDING CARE AGENCY! EVENING AND WEEKEND SHIFTS AVAILABLE IN THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA FULL-TIME HOURS AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE AND SEVENOAKS EVENING AND WEEKEND SHIFTS AVAILABLE IN CRANBROOK, GOUDHURST, MATFIELD, HORSMONDEN & WADHURST Self Employed basis only Shift starts at 7am-£8.25 to £10.00 per hour You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own Must have own car and phone Uniform provided Full Training programme available Experience preferred but not essential. All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON 01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW www.terrablu.co.uk
An Investor in People Employer

Community Care Workers

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Country Folk Care
countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Male or Female Support and Senior Support Workers

Sittingbourne
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Forward Care
forward@tiscali.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Cleaner

Sittingbourne
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Forward Care
forward@tiscali.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Care Assistants

New Romney
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Sandbanks Care Home
adam@belmontsandbanks.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HELPLINE CO-ORDINATOR

Northfleet
Salary £8,400 per annum
To apply/more information:
Alzheimers & Dementia Support
adminadss@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MATRON/MANAGER

Dymchurch
Salary Negotiable
Bethany House Care Home, Dymchurch requires a MATRON/MANAGER to join our team in caring for 15 physically disabled adults. The candidate should be a 1st level Nurse and have a management qualification or be willing to work towards one. Tel: 01303 872289 for more information and an application form. All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
bethanylodge@btconnect.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Part Time Support Workers

Maidstone and Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Presland Care
info@preslandcare.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

On Call Support Workers

Maidstone and Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Presland Care
info@preslandcare.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Senior Support Workers

Chilham
Salary From £15,250
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Support Workers

Chilham
Salary From £13,250
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Support Workers

Chilham
Salary £13,250
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
michelle.jenkins@achuk.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered Nurses

Dover
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Kearnsney Manor Nursing Home
applications@jobforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Senior Support Workers

Sidcup
Salary TBC
Loring Hall We look after people with Learning Difficulties and who may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the following: Senior Support Workers Support Workers Waking Night Staff If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call Colin Miller or Brendan Coll now! CRB checks necessary. Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES Tel: 020 8302 9302 Email: loring@oakfields.net

Support Workers

Sidcup
Salary TBC
Loring Hall We look after people with Learning Difficulties and who may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the following: Senior Support Workers Support Workers Waking Night Staff If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call Colin Miller or Brendan Coll now! CRB checks necessary Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES Tel: 020 8302 9302 Email: loring@oakfields.net

Waking Night Staff

Sidcup
Salary TBC
Loring Hall We look after people with Learning Difficulties and who may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the following: Senior Support Workers Support Workers Waking Night Staff If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call Colin Miller or Brendan Coll now! CRB checks necessary Loring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ES Tel: 020 8302 9302 Email: loring@oakfields.net

Qualified & Registered Nurses (Clinical Advisors)

Coxheath
Salary Band 5, £21,176 - £27,534 + 25% unsocial hour payment
To apply/more information:
South East Coast Ambulance Service
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 278-CLINADVISOR-0510-JT

4 x Care Assistants Needed!!

Medway/Maidstone
Salary £8 - £11.00 per hour (depending on shift times)
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: Care

RGN and RMN's

Dover
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

QUALIFIED, REGISTERED DENTAL NURSE

Tonbridge
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
George Krajewski Dental Practice
george.krajewski@sky.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Print, Packaging, Distribution

BT Phone Book Distributors

Kent
Salary Negotiable
Temporary BT Phone Book Distributors Wanted 0800 0182500 or jobs@linkdirect.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Link Direct
jobs@linkdirect.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Graphics Assistant

Folkestone
Salary £13,125 p.a. (based on £17.5k full-time)
To apply/more information:
Cognitive Media
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Community Assistant

Ashford
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
The North School
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Treatment Worker

Medway
Salary £21,519 - £27,849 +
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
admin@kca.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 704

Customer Services Supervisor

Maidstone
Salary £18,709 - £21,994 per annum
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Ref: P0070

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more jobs online
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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Medway
Salary £15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata
We are currently looking for... TEACHING ASSISTANTS to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team. Medway Scale, Grade D2 £15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata+ SEN Allowance (£1,177) Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does ‘Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us. Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided. Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post. This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure. For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236) Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 24.9.10
To apply/more information:
Abbey Court School
taylI036@medway.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Advisor

Broadstairs
Salary Basic Salary £15k
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

German Speaking Sales Executive

Maidstone
Salary c£20,000
Our client, an established manufacturing company, is looking for a new member of their sales team to increase sales in the German speaking markets. Telemarketing and Telesales form a large part of the role and you will need to be self motivating, professional and able to form successful client relationships. Other key elements of this exciting new position include handling incoming sales queries, sales activity management, samples for trialling and constructing quotes. Full fluency in written and spoken German essential
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1697

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Class 1 or 2 Drivers

Aylesham
Salary £1600 per month
Class 1 or 2 drivers full time Digital card needed continental experince Double manning Adr an Advantage £1600/month Based at Aylesham Contact 01304 848220 email:info@bmexpressfreight.co.uk
To apply/more information:
B & M Express Freight
info@bmexpressfreight.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Demand Planner

West Kent
Salary c£28,000
A rare opportunity to work in a medium sized but fast moving subsidiary of a multi-national organisation. With a minimum of 3 years experience gained working as a demand planner within the FMCG environment you will have advanced excel and excellent communication skills. Knowledge of S&OP processes and long range forecasting is essential with knowledge of forecasting tools, resource planning software, SAP and Manugistics an advantage. French linguistic skills are desirable but not essential.
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1700

The smart way to find your next job JobsforKent.co.uk

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

THORNDEN WOOD ROAD, HERNE BAY - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway resurfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thornden Wood Road, Herne Bay from the junction with Hackington Road to the junction with Greenhill Road on or after 27 September 2010 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The various side roads leading from Thornden Wood Road will be closed at their junctions as the works progress. These will be sign posted on site, with local diversions set up.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Radfall Road, Chestfield Road, A2990 Old Thanet Way and Greenhill Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury & Swale

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVENEY, WHITSTABLE & SEASALTER - (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that for reasons of public safety during construction works in connection with Seasalter to Graveney Sea Defences, the Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mile per hour on the sections of road shown below, when the relevant signs are displayed.

The roads affected are:

Seasalter Lane, Seasalter for its entire length.

Seasalter Road, Graveney / Faversham Road, Whitstable from the existing 30mph/40 mph sign to the south of Graveney Church to the existing 30 mph / National Speed Limit sign.

This Order comes into effect on or after 13 September 2010 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

QUEENSWAY, DYMCHURCH - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Queensway, Dymchurch on or after 13 September 2010 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hythe Road and Kingsway.

The alternative route is via Hythe Road, Burmarsh Road, Kingsway and Queensway.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

VARIOUS ROADS (M2 OVERBRIDGES), SWALE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of a programme of maintenance and re-waterproofing of motorway overbridges, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads (M2 Overbridges), Swale on or after 13 September 2010 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

Salters Lane, Faversham - from 13 September until 28 September 2010

Alternative route via A251 Ashford Road, Faversham and A2 London Road, Faversham

Vigo Road, Borden - from 16 September until 1 October 2010

Alternative route via Sutton Baron Road, Wrens Road, Manns Place, Silver Street, Deans Hill Road, Deans Hill and Stiff Street

Yaugher Lane, Hartlip - from 27 September until 12 October 2010

Alternative route via Place Lane, Warren Lane and Matts Hill

Bull Lane, Newington - from 30 September until 15 October 2010

Alternative route via Cowstead Road, Lower Hartlip Road and Old House Lane

Warren Lane, Hartlip - from 13 October until 28 October 2010

Alternative route via Matts Hill, Yaugher Lane and Place Lane

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

DANE ROAD, MARGATE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of works to demolish a gas holder and replace a retaining wall, the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic on the section of Dane Road, Margate between the junctions with Dane Hill and Bath Road/Victoria Road.

This Order comes into effect on or after 13 September 2010 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

From 13 September 2010 for up to 3 weeks, Dane Road will be closed to west bound traffic.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Addington Road and Addington Street.

From 4 October 2010 for up to 2 weeks, Dane Road will be closed in both directions.

The alternative routes are eastbound via Dane Hill, Northdown Road and Bath Road, westbound via Victoria Road, Addington Road and Addington Street.

From 18 October 2010 for up to 3 weeks, Dane Road will be closed to west bound traffic.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Addington Road and Addington Street.

Note that on 21 & 22 October 2010, Dane Road will be closed to through traffic under a separate Traffic Order.

Parking on this section of Dane Road will be prohibited for the duration of these works.

VIOLET AVENUE & COLUMBO SQUARE, RAMSGATE - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Violet Avenue & Columbo Square, Ramsgate on or after 13 September 2010.

Violet Avenue, Ramsgate will be closed on or after 13 September 2010 for up to 1 day

The alternative route is via Northwood Road, Hopes Lane and Pysons Road

Colombo Square, Ramsgate will be closed on or after 14 September 2010 for up to 1 day.

The alternative route is via Kimberley Road, The Centre and Princess Margaret Avenue or St John's Avenue, The Centre and Kimberley Road.

It is planned the works will be carried out between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.30 pm.

LAUNDRY ROAD, MINSTER - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is given that because of the construction of a carriageway tie-in linking the new East Kent Access Road to the existing road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Laundry Road, Minster, on or after 18 September 2010 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

Laundry Road will be closed from junction with the A299 Canterbury Road West for a distance of 180 metres south. There will be no access for though traffic from 7.00 pm on 18 September 2010 through to 6.00 am the following morning.

The alternative route is via A299 Canterbury Road West, Tothill Street, Foxborough Lane and Laundry Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KNOWLE ROAD, WOULDHAM - (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Knowle Road from the junction of Pilgrims Way to Cornwall Crescent on or after Wednesday 29th September 2010 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via High Street, School Lane, Pilgrims Way.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Louise Skull on 08700 500792.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

The Insolvency Act 1986
WESTPORT DESIGN LTD
(Formerly Echoland Developments Limited)
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 04927335

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we, Ian Yerrill and Bernard Hoffman (IP Nos 8924 and 1593) both of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 24 August 2010.
Further details: Email: gemail@edelemans.co.uk
I Yerrill and B Hoffman, Joint Liquidators

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

Umang Patel of 32 Kitchener Avenue Gravesend DA12 5HY has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the VARIATION of a premises license

Proposed Hours for sale of alcohol 6am – 23:00 Everyday

for the premises King's Farm Mini Market situated at 32 Kitchener Avenue Gravesend DA12 5HY

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 16/09/2010

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/02800/FUL Springhill Oast Standen Street, Benenden
- Conversion of barn to residential use (LB)

10/02805/LBC Springhill Oast Standen Street, Benenden
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of barn to residential use (LB)

10/02771/HOUSE Judds Farm Hayesden Lane, Bidborough
- Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of replacement single storey rear garden room (LB)

10/02777/CAC Former Plant & Tools (South Eastern) Ltd Nevill Terrace, Broadwater
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing buildings on site (CA)

10/02768/FUL Trenley Farm Trenley Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Development of a two bay garage and store and four stables for private use with ancillary storage. Provision of new rear driveway. Development of 40m x 20m sandschool (LB)

10/02787/HOUSE Beemans High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Replacement front boundary wall and railings, installation of gateway adjoining boiler house to match gateway on west side of house between house and garage (CA) (LB)

10/02789/LBC Beemans High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement front boundary wall and railings, installation of gateway adjoining boiler house to match gateway on west side of house between house and garage (LB)

10/02827/FUL 19 Stone Street Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Change of use of shop from A1 retail to D1 Art gallery and classroom (LB) (CA)

10/02856/HOUSE Playstole Chapel Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Replacement of corrugated iron garage/storage unit with oak framed garage/storage unit (CA)

10/02855/HOUSE Hollin House Court Road, Culverden
- Single storey attached garage (CA)

10/02782/HOUSE 1 Highdown Cottages Church Road, Goudhurst
- Demolition (part) of ground floor shower room and conservatory and erection of single storey extension to form dining area and enlarged kitchen (CA)

10/02828/HOUSE Crackhill Oast Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden
- Single storey rear extension (LB)

10/02506/FULMJ Lots 1 - 14 Longbrooks Farm, Paddock Wood
- Water borehole and irrigation system (retrospective); Erect 8 acres of polytunnels, storage barn, 2m high boundary fencing, portaloo (MAJOR)

10/02837/FUL 83 Frant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Variation of condition 15 of TW/08/03567 - Relating to restrictions to windows - To allow alteration of existing window positions in north and south elevations and 2 additional windows in north elevation (CA)

10/02767/HOUSE Milner Court Camden Park, Park
- Removal of garage roof and incorporation of existing garage walls into a new two storey side extension and associated external work. (CA)

10/02757/FUL Land Off Holden Road Adjacent Holden House, Southborough North
- New dwelling - 2 bedroom stone cottage for gardener/chauffeur/domestic tied to approved detached house with garage/workshop (CA) (LB)

10/02617/FUL David Salomons Estate Broomhill Road, Speldhurst
- Air handling plant to rear roof and alterations to two windows to allow for pipe access (LB)

10/02620/LBC David Salomons Estate Broomhill Road, Speldhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Air handling plant to rear roof and alterations to two windows to allow for pipe access (LB)

10/02840/HOUSE 90 St James Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 11 September 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Peugeot's hybrid cross

By **STEVE LOADER**

PEUGEOT'S 3008 will add a global motor market first to a string of awards by offering a hybrid diesel model.

The launch of the 3008 last year as the first serious crossover rival to Nissan's impressive Qashqai, had already signalled a new intent from the French marque, which aims to leap from being the 10th biggest vehicle producer in the world to seventh within five years helped by 14 new model launches.

Now the 3008 allows Peugeot's technological ambition to go toe-to-toe with the likes of Toyota and Honda in emissions-saving hybrids, going one better by drawing on its renowned diesel expertise as well as experience gained from its electric version of the 106 hatchback (1995-2003).

There are pros and cons to using diesel to partner the electric power of a hybrid; on one hand, there is the diesel's inherent ability to deliver greater mpg from its fuel supply, but this must be balanced against the usual weight penalty of the engine itself against an equivalent petrol unit.

This is compounded by the fact that the low weight of the electric half of the powertrain is undone by the weight of its batteries.

But there's an air of confidence in the 'lion brand' camp, since the new 3008 Hybrid4 model – due here early next year – will then donate its powertrain to other Peugeots including an all-wheel drive version of the stunning TT-esque RCZ Coupe that has focused so much attention on Peugeot this year.

And this layout gives additional appeal to the 200bhp Peugeot system – a 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel driving the front wheels plus 37bhp electric motor for the rear – and also delivers the 4x4 option the 3008 has lacked since launch but the rival Qashqai and others possess.

Not that this has been a major deal breaker, since the car was launched in front-wheel drive form with a clever traction control upgrade option called Grip Control that gives the 3008 a quasi-4x4 ability to cope with slippery and treacherous conditions. This was demonstrated graphically at the car's UK press debut when it was used to launch a glider – see 'Peugeot's spectacular launch stunt' at www.carsforkent.co.uk Motors TV.

Nevertheless, there will be buyers drawn to the all-wheel drive ability of the new hybrid as well as its claimed ability to return 74.4mpg on the combined cycle and escape road tax with 99g/km of CO_2 emissions.

There is also the option to run the car in ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) mode, although Peugeot is vague about how much range the car might have, stating only that this will need "the high-voltage batteries to be sufficiently charged".

Still, if it allows the car to be used for an all-electric school or supermarket run, it will be a major plus for 'greenies', while the less eco-conscious will have noticed that they can also cut loose occasionally with 200bhp on tap if both diesel and electric are called upon.

On top of all this is the inherrent crossover versatility of the 3008 – part hatchback, part people carrier and part SUV (sports utility vehicle) – that has won so many awards.

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09 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
09 MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 8000 miles . £13,995
10 FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1400 miles £11,995
10 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £10,995
09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
09 DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAROON, 1900 miles £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 2000 miles £9,995
09 SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £9,995
09 VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £9,495
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £8,995
09 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 1500 miles £7,995
09 KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 miles £7,995

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS

09 MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £29,950
08 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £12,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £10,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £9,995
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £9,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £9,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £8,995
06 PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, RED, 21000 miles £8,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995
06 NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,495
05 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £7,495
05 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT 16V TWINPORT COUPE, BLACK, 26000 miles £6,995

FIESTA

06 FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 1600 miles, yes really under 2000 miles from new £6,995
07 FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £5,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
08 FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
08 FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £8,995
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £8,995
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 18000 miles £7,995
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £7,495
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles £7,495
07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,495
05 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles £6,495

FOCUS ESTATES

07 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £7,995
06 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £7,495
06 FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V ESTATE AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 18000 miles £6,995
06 FORD FOCUS LX 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £5,995

RENAULT SCENIC

08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995
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07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £8,495
07 RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles £7,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
08 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £7,995
07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles £7,495
06 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £6,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, GOLD, 17000 miles £6,995
04 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 27000 miles £5,495

RENAULT

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08 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £10,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £9,995
08 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles £9,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £9,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 23000 miles £8,995
08 RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION VVT 111 ESTATE CAR ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 600 miles £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £8,995
06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £8,995
08 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £8,995
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £7,995
08 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £7,995
07 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,995
06 RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £7,995
05 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 miles £7,495
07 RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles £5,995
05 RENAULT MODUS PRIVILEGE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles £4,995

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08 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £6,995
09 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
08 CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £6,995
08 CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £6,995
09 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £6,995
09 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1200 miles £6,495
08 CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £5,995
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £5,995
08 CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £5,495
07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £4,995
07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles £4,995
07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £4,995
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE PLUS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 3000 miles £4,995
07 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £4,995
07 CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £4,995
06 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,495
05 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 28000 miles £3,995

HYUNDAI

08 HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £11,995
07 HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, RED, 4000 miles £9,995
08 HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £6,995

HYUNDAI

07 HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
06 HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles £5,995
08 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
08 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles £5,995
07 HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, RED, 4000 miles £5,995
07 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £5,495
07 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 9000 miles £5,495
06 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £4,495

KIA

09 KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 miles £7,995
08 KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £7,495
07 KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,995
06 KIA PICANTO LX 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 24000 miles £4,995

DAIHATSU

09 DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAROON, 1900 miles £9,995
08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £7,995
08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
07 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
07 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £6,995
07 DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £6,995

BMW

05 BMW 3 SERIES 320D ES TOURING TD ESTATE, GREY, 5100 miles £12,995

FIAT

06 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £5,995
07 FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles £4,995

FUSION

10 FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1400 miles £11,995
08 FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £8,995
08 FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £8,995
08 FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 3000 miles £8,995
09 FORD FUSION STYLE CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £8,995
07 FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £6,995

CITROEN

08 CITROEN C4 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1800 miles £9,995
06 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 16V ESTATE AUTO, RED, 16000 miles £6,995
02 CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 54000 miles £2,995

MONDEO

06 FORD MONDEO LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 24000 miles £6,995

CORSA

10 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £10,995
09 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, STAR SILVER, 900 miles £9,995
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07 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £7,495
06 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAUVE, 19000 miles £6,495
06 VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £5,495
05 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI 16V 5DR TD HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 65000 miles £4,495

MAZDA

08 MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £10,995
07 MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £9,995
06 MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £8,995
06 MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £8,995
07 MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

NEARLY NEW 2010 59 09 REG CARS

09 SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,995

NEARLY NEW 2010 59 09 REG CARS

07 TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £13,995
07 TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 16000 miles £13,995
07 TOYOTA RAV-4 XT3 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 16000 miles £13,995
06 TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV, RED, 25000 miles £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 13000 miles £9,995
07 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £9,995
08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £8,995
08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £8,995
07 TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
07 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 23000 miles £7,495
04 TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,995
07 TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
05 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, GREEN, 26000 miles £6,995
04 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £6,295
04 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,995

NISSAN

07 NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH, FIRED IRON, 19000 miles £10,995
07 NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £10,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 2000 miles £9,995
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £9,995
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £8,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPORT CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995
08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £8,495
08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, RED, 14000 miles £8,495
06 NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,495
07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £7,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 18000 miles £7,495
06 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 27000 miles £5,995
04 NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £5,495
04 NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles £4,995
04 NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ARUBA BLUE, 12000 miles £4,995
03 NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 32000 miles £4,495
02 NISSAN MICRA S 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 47000 miles £3,495
02 NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH, GREY, 31000 miles £3,295

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

09 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles £10,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE CDTI 8V 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 11000 miles £10,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

08 VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles £9,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 9000 miles £8,495
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £7,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £7,495
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 10000 miles £6,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £6,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles £5,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £5,995
04 VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles £4,995

ASTRA ESTATES

08 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, ECLIPSE BLACK, 5000 miles £9,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles £7,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £7,995
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 miles £6,495
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,495
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

09 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £13,995
09 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 6000 miles £12,995
10 VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £10,995
09 VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 2000 miles £9,995
09 VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £9,995
07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £9,995
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Lexus' early birthday present

LEXUS is celebrating 20 years with the early launch of its all-new CT200h executive hatchback – its fifth UK model.

The newcomer was originally scheduled for launch here early in 2011, but its public debut at the Paris Motor Show later this month will pave the way for a UK showroom arrival in October.

Like other models in the Toyota executive brand's line-up, the CT200h uses a petrol-electric powertrain for economy and low emissions, though the Japanese marque claims it will also offer sporty driving as well as zero-emission all-electric motoring at speeds up to 30mph.

The sales pitch is to offer a premium-badge executive model that fits company car man's desire to be seen to do the right thing by downsizing, going greener and saving on his tax, while maintaining status and driving appeal.

The powertrain comprises a 1.8-litre VVT-i petrol engine, electric motor and continuously variable auto transmission (E-CVT). Prices are be confirmed.

Suzuki aims to replicate Swift success

SUZUKI'S evolutionary new Swift is now on sale from £9,995.

The outgoing car changed perceptions of the Japanese marque's small cars by adding driving pleasure and a fun element to Suzuki's known value for money pitch.

No wonder then that the replacement echoes the styling of its predecessor, while showing better build quality inside and out, and a new and more efficient mainstay 1.2-litre petrol to replace the old 1.3 unit and bringing more power and lower emissions, to fit the current trend and road tax charges.

The latest three and five-door Swift is lighter and stiffer than before, yet slightly larger and higher.

Fuel consumption on the combined cycle is now 56.5mpg for the manual transmission model – an improvement of 7.8mpg over the old engine.

A 1.3-litre diesel is planned for early 2011 and should average around 67mpg.

Jaguar leaping ahead in sales

JAGUAR sales are roaring – up 45 per cent so far this year and a whopping 74 per cent better last month against August 2009.

This was achieved despite the end of X-Type production and no replacement model and while largely driven by the success of the XF (from £29,900), which outsold its Audi and BMW rivals in every month so far this year, the new XJ saloon (from £53,900) was also directors' car sector best seller for May, June and July.

Jaguar UK MD Geoff Cousins said August is traditionally quiet for UK car sales, yet his brand had had its busiest for two years: "Some compelling new models, competitive offers and a cut-through TV advertising campaign for XF and XJ are helping to drive retail sales.

"Our volume model, the XF continues to go from strength to strength with a sales increase of 45 per cent year to date."

by STEVELOADER

Electric cars power up – but at a price

ELECTRIC cars are the dream ticket environmentally, but few of us are convinced.

For the cynical, like myself, they have started a worrying trend towards silly names with green or electric overtones such as the Nissan Leaf or Peugeot Ion.

General Motors (GM) is testing our patience with an electric hybrid, to be known as the Vauxhall Ampere and Chevrolet Volt. Watt next? (it's catching).

More seriously, those unsmiling watchdogs of the hard-nosed secondhand motor trade at Glass's Guide have already put the fear of God up any would-be electric car buyers by predicting that their used values could be as flat as a dead battery after just five years – 10 per cent of original price.

Batteries are the problem in fact, being currently (sorry) too heavy, too bulky, not environmentally-friendly either to produce or dispose of and – despite all the carmakers' reassurances – too short-lived and expensive to replace.

Couple that with the very obvious point that emission-free electric cars are a nonsense if you simply transfer those emissions to the chimneys of the nearby fossil fuel power station, and their future isn't even looking as bright as some of those sparky puns the makers are so fond of.

On the other hand, electric motors deliver good power for their weight and instantly, without the need to spin-up to maximum output like an internal combustion engine.

Audi has already suggested exciting potential here by putting an electric motor on each wheel in a concept based around its R8 supercar, which it could not resist calling E-tron

But electric power's ace card is the social and political will to change the motoring world in the face of global warming; Governments can see the real and PR benefits of getting us into electric cars, the carmakers can see the potential economies of scale and, practically, it may be easier soon to avoid or reduce emissions more easily at power stations rather than at the car exhaust pipe.

The debate has to come to the fore soon anyway because the first practical electric cars are coming to the market, though we've seen a few on trial and public charging points have gone up in London and some big cities.

FULLY CHARGED: Nissan's Leaf – unconventional power and pricing with conventional looks

COST CONCERN: Peugeot's Ion will need to be priced cheaply to attract drivers

Nissan's Leaf is attracting most interest, ironically, because it's the most normal to look at.

Order books opened this month. For a modest and refundable deposit of £257 you could have one of these five-door hatchbacks for £23,990 – including the £5,000 electric car incentive from the Government – next March.

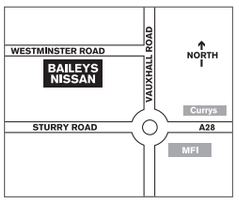
Initially, the cars will come from Nissan Japan, but production of both car and batteries begin at the Sunderland UK plant in 2013.

Before anyone faints at the price, we need to remember that it should be possible to run the Leaf for less than two pence a mile, yet it can hit 90mph and travel 100 miles on a full charge.

If the Leaf looks conventional then the Peugeot Ion/Mitsubishi MiEV, arriving soon, looks anything but.

However, it is less radical than it appears, being an electric version of the petrol-driven Mitsubishi iCar five-door city car already available here – reviewed at www.carsforkent.co.uk Motors TV (see Is This the Real iPod?).

It has less space than the Leaf, a maximum speed of 80mph and a range of 80 miles, yet Mitsubishi has said its version will costs the same as the Leaf – including the Government cash – suggesting that Peugeot and Mitsi may have to revise their sums soon.



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*Actual model shown is 1.6L Acenta with optional Sport pack priced at £14,095. Model shown has optional metallic paint worth £400 including VAT. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd., The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.
Pre-production fuel consumption figures for Juke range are: URBAN 44.8-27.7mpg/6.3-10.2L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 64.1-47.0mpg/4.4-6.0L/100km – COMBINED 55.3-37.2mpg/5.1-7.6L/100km. CO_2 emissions are: 134-175g/km. Information correct at time of print. Official figures available at www.nissan.co.uk from August 2010.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6)-21.5 (13.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2)-39.7 (7.1), Combined 55.4 (5.1)-30.3 (9.3), CO2 Emissions 119-234 g/km.

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DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Mercedes C-Class Estate Sport

Mercedes' junior load lugger is a class act

MERCEDES-BENZ created the upmarket German estate car sector with the venerable W123 (1976-1985) – forerunner to the E-Class model dynasty.

These rugged troop carriers are still a common sight – tribute to their usefulness, appeal and enduring class.

But then, as in so many other ways, those upstarts at BMW and Audi came in and stole sales from M-B even as they widened the audience of customers.

Particularly notable was the way BMW's Touring and Audi's Avant estate models catered for a new 'lifestyle' buyer, less concerned about real load-lugging power and more about conveying an image of country living.

And while the bigger Merc E-Class Estate remains the discerning big estate car buyer's favourite, it has taken the three-pointed star brand some time to catch up with BMW and Audi at the smaller end of the estate sector.

Like its saloon sister though, I reckon the latest C-Class Estate (from £25,195) really cuts it in a tough arena which also now has premium SUVs (sports utility vehicles) and even people carriers to contend with.

For a start, the styling is crisp and sporty whether you opt for the 'classic' models, with their three-pointed star mounted on top of the radiator grille, or for the Sport versions with the brand badge centred in a wide M-B coupe-style grille.

Then there is the latest C-Class blend of good handling and ride quality – its obvious rivals deliver on the first but cannot match the latter.

And virtually the whole estate range has eco-friendly credentials, which M-B rather confusingly labels BlueEfficiency – like other German marques, it is anxious not to hand any PR advantages to the country's Green Party.

BlueEfficiency comprises a series of tweaks to save fuel and emissions including low rolling resistance tyres, aerodynamic tucks and revised powertrains.

Unlike some carmakers, the 'greening' has not been reflected by higher prices though – bearing in mind M-B's premium listing, you would rather hope not.

In fact, though I was highly impressed with the C250 CDI Sport auto model as tested, I was rather taken aback by the £33,105 pricing.

Nevertheless, I can imagine someone being seduced by the car's easy capability and class, and secondhand values are robust, so you would get lots of your investment back.

The 200bhp 2,143cc four-cylinder diesel engine is smooth and the five-speed automatic gearbox seamless; there is enough power here to enjoy the balanced rear-wheel drive chassis that runs the BMW 3-Series close for handling and driving enjoyment.

Sport spec does bring a slightly tauter chassis setting, but ride quality is still excellent considering the payback in driver enjoyment.

As ever, the cabin is typical Merc, being robust rather than flashy, with good seats and sensible controls.

The big seller though, and rightly so if paying extra for the estate version, is the cleverness of the load area; the space is generous and one of the best at this level.

But it is the practicality of that space that is impressive, with minimal intrusion from the wheelarches and a low loading sill.

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And while a previous version of the C-Class erred too far in the lifestyle estate direction with a rather rakish tailgate, the current car's more practical upright rear end is cleverly disguised by a roofline that appear to sweep down.

Where I think M-B could learn from newer entrants to the estate sector is with a one-stop release to flop the rear seat backs – a boon when you are grappling with bulky or awkward items.

The Karakuri system on the Mazda6, for instance, works particularly well.

DrivingPortfolio

MERCEDES-BENZ C250 CDI BLUE EFFICIENCY SPORT ESTATE AUTO £33,105

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£155/year
Best rival	BMW 3-Series Touring

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the way prices escalate ever more steeply the further you move up the range

NOT SURE: the badge can yet lure younger buyers away from BMW and Audi

REALLY LIKE: how this upmarket motor can salve your green – or blue – conscience at no extra cost

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SPARK 1.0 5 door FROM £6,945 Model shown is Spark 1.2 LT 5dr

AVEO 1.2 S 3 door FROM £8,995 Model shown is Aveo 1.2 S 3dr

LACETTI 1.4 SE 5 door FROM £10,950 Model shown is Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr

CRUZE 1.6 S 5 door FROM £13,395 Model shown is Cruze 2.0 VCDi LS 4dr

CAPTIVA 2.0 LS 5 Seat FROM £19,145 Model shown is Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5seat

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Vehicles shown are Spark 1.2 LT, Aveo 1.2 S, Lacetti 1.6 SX, Cruze 2.0VCDi LS, Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-7seat with metallic paint at an extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £365, Lacetti at £350, Cruze and Captiva at £400). Available at participating Retailers only. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Offer available on all retail registrations from 9th July 2010 to 5th October 2010 apart from all Matiz models. Certain Retail stock does not qualify. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 miles limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 years/50,000 miles servicing package, expires whichever occurs first. Beyond 50,000 miles the vehicle must be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule to continue the 5 year warranty. MOT Test Warranty cover does not include the cost of the MOT test fee. MOT Test Warranty covers the MOTs carried out at year 3, 4 and 5 and has a limit of 100,000 miles. The MOT Test Warranty excludes accident damage, tyres, glass and bodywork and has a claim limit of £750 per MOT. Annual vehicle health checks have no mileage limitations. Roadside Assistance has no mileage limit but does not cover certain self-induced incidents. Terms and conditions apply please visit www.5yearpromise.co.uk or contact your nearest Retailer for details. Prices correct at time of press. Call may be monitored and recorded for training purposes. (Chev98307)

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Spark 1.2 LT: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km. Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX: Urban - 30.7 (9.2), Extra-urban - 47.8 (5.9), Combined - 39.7 (7.1). CO_2 emissions 170g/km. Cruze 2.0 VCDi (125) LS 4dr: Urban - 40.4 (7.0), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 145g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra-urban - 42.8 (6.6), Combined - 38.2 (7.4). CO_2 emissions 197g/km.

ALFA ROMEO

159, MPI Turismo, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted isofix child seat points, black, 36301 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 64642 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, MPI Turismo, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers isofix child seat points, black, 36301 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 64642 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, MPI Turismo, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 36301 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 64642 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, TDI SE, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 101000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, **SE, 2002, ABS BRAKES AIR** conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels remote central locking remote audio controls, ebony metallic, 58000 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, SPORT TDI, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control diesel full service history isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 65000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, SE, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, ebony metallic, 58000 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, SPORT TDI, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 65000 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, TDI Sport, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 74000 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, S3 QUATTRO, 2002, black, 81241 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, S3 QUATTRO, 2002, black, 81241 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, TDI Sport, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 67000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, TDI SE, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag trip computer remote central locking, blue, 101000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, S3 QUATTRO, 2002, black, 81241 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, S3 QUATTRO, 2002, black, 81241 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, TDI SE, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 101000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, TDI Sport, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey metallic, 67000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.2 SE CONV, lf54xup, full leather, heated seats, air conditioning, multi-function steering wheel, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 50615 miles, £10969, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, lr56uyl, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, 07956 158119, black, 18941 miles, £13990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, yb56rze, half leather, multi-function steering wheel, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, trip computer, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, grey, 0 miles, £10900, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.2 SE CONV SAT NAV, ls04ghk, full leather, satellite navigation, air conditioning, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in one place. visit our website for even more details. we are open 7 days a week and easily located off the m25, m26 and a20. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 52817 miles, £9999, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows, red, 50 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £10990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4 Rythm HDi, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player diesel drivers airbag full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking, carlinite grey, 4487 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Splash 5dr Hatch Special Edition, gu09olk, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, full size spare wheel, steel wheels, cloth seat trim, rear wiper, front head restraints, blue, 17540 miles, £6695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 5dr Hatch, gy58vux, pas, abs, radio/cd, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, full size spare wheel, steel wheels, rear wiper, front head restraints, red, 11340 miles, £5695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 3dr Hatch, gv57vmz, pas, abs, radio/cd, passenger airbag, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, ffront head restraints, cloth seat trim, red, 29000 miles, £4995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 5dr Hatch, bv08upo, pas, abs, radio/cd, passenger airbag, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, steel wheels, rear wiper, blue, 18035 miles, £5695, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C1, Vibe, 2008, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering single cd player, red, 22000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, Cool, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning drivers airbag immobiliser power steering single cd player, silver, 19900 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, Vibe, 2006, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player, grey, 31592 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, bossanova white, 1000 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags lumbar support rear headrests height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, bossanova white, 15611 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, black, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, bossanova white, 22365 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2009, white, 6 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 3000 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, white metallic, 23000 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.3 MULTIJET SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 29050 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, SPORT, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking power steering, breakbeat grey, 10700 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £14100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, red, 55 miles, £14100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, black, 7811 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, blue, 6654 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2010, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking, black, 10 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.6 Zetec S, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass traction control trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, frozen white, 5811 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec TDCi *City Pack*, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, panther black, 4661 miles, £12500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.2 Edge, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted bluetooth car kit cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, moondust silver, 1888 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Econetic TDCi, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, avalon grey, 5977 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Titanium TDCi, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, hot magenta, 1806 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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SAAB 9-3 2.0T Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2003 53 Reg , 121,170 miles, Metallic Black, 3 Owners. Sat Nav, Bluetooth Handsfree Leather seat trim, Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alloy wheels, Service indicator, Immobiliser, Foglights, Full electric pack, ABS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Alarm, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Climate Control, Full Service History, Sports seats, Tinted glass **£4,295**

SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 2002 52 Reg , 140,700 miles, Metallic BLUE, 3 Owners. Leather seat trim, ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, Body kit, CD, Central locking, Climate control, Colour coding - Body, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Electric sunroof, Front armrest, Immobiliser, Metallic paintwork, Park distance control, Part Service History, Remote locking, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Sports seats, Remote central locking, Rear electric windows, Heated door mirrors, Audio remote control, Alarm, Trip computer **£3,995**

SAAB 9-3 2.0i S Convertible, 2 Doors, Automatic, Convertible, Petrol, 1998 S Reg , 78,811 miles, Metallic Silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Colour coding - Body, Computer, Cruise control, Driver airbag, Full Electric Pack, Full service, Leather seats, Metallic paintwork, function steering wheel, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Radio/CD, Side airbags, Tinted glass, Wheel trims **£3,295**

SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg , 102,941 miles, Metallic Grey, 4 Owners. ABS, Radio/CD, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Leather upholstery, Full Electric Pack, Air conditioning, Alarm, Central locking, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator ..... **WAS £3,195 NOW £2,995**

SAAB 9-3 2.0T, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 W Reg, 70,471 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. Central locking, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Part Service History, CD, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, PAS, Radio/Cassette, Air conditioning, Radio, Service indicator **£2,495**

SAAB 9-3 2.0i, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 1998 R Reg, 66,678 miles, Black, 1 Owner. Rear wiper, Trip computer, Cloth upholstery, Immobiliser, Part Service History, Remote locking, Drivers airbag, ABS, Adjustable seats, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, CD, Central locking, Child locks, Computer, Metallic paintwork, Radio, Side airbags, Steel wheels, Sunroof, Tinted glass, Wheel trims **£1,895**

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Official fuel consumption figures mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km): Lowest GEN-2 1.6 Persona MT (petrol): urban 28.5 (9.9), extra urban 60.1 (4.7), combined 42.8 (6.6), CO2: 157; Highest: GEN- 2 1.6 GSX AT: urban 26.16 (10.8), extra urban 47.09 (6.0), combined 38.22 (7.8), CO2: 184

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

PEOPLE are eating out less due to the downturn, you may think, but the entrepreneurial boss of a Kent firm believes many are simply trading down.

Instead of individual restaurants, many customers are opting for the value dining chains and in-store restaurant outlets, says Stephen Drew, MD of quality frozen meals producer Millifoods in Ashford.

He is backing his view with new management appointments and a 50 per cent expansion plan – read more in this week's Big Interview.

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Routes to recovery must avoid axe, says watchdog

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

KEY transport links in Kent head a 'hands off' list that the county-based UK transport watchdog will press upon the Government ahead of its forthcoming spending review.

The Freight Transport Association (FTA), headquartered in Tunbridge Wells, says the London to Kent ports M20 corridor road and rail routes must be "spared the axe" to maintain the UK economic recovery and future international competitiveness.

These two primary routes top a 12-strong list featuring many other regional routes, underlining a consistent message in economic circles that the South East is crucial to the recovery.

Theo de Pencier, the FTA's CEO, said: "The association has already made it clear that cutting capital spending on infrastructure would be a huge mistake, especially for an economy still struggling to free itself from recession. As the fate of key road and rail projects hangs in the balance we must make it clear that any short-term savings made by curtailing investment have to be weighed against the longer term costs of increased congestion and unreliability in the supply chain – a matter made more pressing by expected rises in traffic levels."

The FTA argues that congestion is a big drain that could cost freight and other road users in England alone £25 billion more per year by 2025 than it did in 2003, based on the 2006 Eddington Transport Study – a source the FTA wants the Government to take note of when compiling the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) to be published on October 20.

Far from wielding the axe, the FTA wants minsters to sanction targeted investment in new transport infrastructure capacity and technology to get the best out of the network.

Mr de Pencier added: "Road and rail corridors that are likely to become congestion hot spots due to greater freight growth over the next decade are already under the greatest strain. The need to make early headway on existing investment plans is obvious.

"The public purse is understandably being tightly held, but the Government must not be constrained by previously held dogma in funding its spending priorities.

"However they are funded, the FTA believes the projects identified in the submission are simply too important to forsake."

FTA chiefs will make their case to Transport Secretary Philip Hammond soon and urge him and colleagues to be guided by the Eddington Transport Study; recognise the long lead times associated with transport schemes; and look at new sources of finance.

On the last point, the FTA argues that private funding has successfully developed the UK's deep sea port infrastructure, airports and railways already – the Treasury does not necessarily have to find the cash.

King: Bank on the Marlowe

BANK of England Governor Mervyn King threw off currency cares briefly this week to check progress at the new £25.6 million Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, due to open in autumn 2011.

He had accepted an invitation from Peter Williams, chair of the New Marlowe Theatre Development Trust, and said: "I hope the people of east Kent will enjoy the considerable cultural, creative and community benefits that projects such as this bring, particularly during this time of economic difficulty."

But Mr King's visit also gave a heavyweight financial nod towards the launch of what is claimed to be a unique Founding Corporate Partners scheme, giving firms the chance to be the first to buy into long-term benefits of an association with the 1,200-seat theatre.

KING FOR A DAY: Mervyn King (third left) at the new Marlowe with (from left) Michael Head, MD of Crown Products of Kent, Paul Barrett, and Colin Overall, ISG Jackson project manager

Energise

Paul Barrett, MD of Barretts of Canterbury and chairman of Canterbury 4 Business, believes the Marlowe will help energise regeneration of the city, east Kent and beyond.

He said: "The aim is to increase audience figures to well in excess of 300,000 a year, compared with 270,000 in the old theatre. The estimate is that £22.6m will be drawn into the local economy a year – an increase of £8.7m compared with the old Marlowe. Thousands of additional visitors will come to the city and stay overnight or for the weekend, benefiting its restaurants, pubs, hotels and shops, creating or safeguarding hundreds of jobs."

For a donation of £5,000 or more, companies will become a Founding Corporate Partner of the Marlowe. In return, the theatre will offer a host of exclusive benefits, including lifetime recognition in the foyer of the new building, booking privileges and staff discounts.

Mr Barrett is backing the Corporate Partner scheme: "I believe local businesses should support local initiatives, which is why I am proud to endorse it.

"The fund-raising campaign is striving to raise the final £1.75m needed to complete the funding of the new Marlowe and I hope local businesses will wholeheartedly offer their support."

Roger De Haan – one of Kent's top businessmen and former Saga boss – is also behind the venture and its potential to stimulate the regional economy, together with cultural redevelopment in Folkestone and at the Turner Contemporary in Margate.

He said: "East Kent is developing a reputation as one of the country's most exciting cultural destinations and as a vibrant place to live and work, and regional businesses can play a crucial role in supporting these bold and compelling initiatives."

Confidence dips among leaders

BUSINESS confidence in Kent and the South East has dipped 20 points from the previous quarter according to the latest ICAEW/Grant Thornton Business Confidence Monitor (BCM).

The index for the third quarter in 2010 now stands at +9.7 – considerably lower than the National Confidence Index of +21.5 – and reflects business leaders' concern about how public sector cuts will affect the local economy as Britain battles to cut its monster debt.

Firms across the region are also pessimistic about growth. They believe turnover will grow by 4.6 per cent over the coming 12 months, down from expectations of 6.4 in Q2.

Forecasts for growth in profits (4.2 per cent) and sales (3.7) over the next year are also lower than last quarter.

The BCM partners – the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and accountancy firm Grant Thornton – also report similarly depressed views on recruitment and research and development.

However, firms report that access to capital is getting easier, though other ICAEW research suggests they also have less need for extra funds, thanks to stricter cost control and cash management post-recession.

Fay Webster, ICAEW regional director, said: "Businesses are feeling cautious about the future and slightly under attack. Confidence needs boosting. Now is time for the Government to give clear messages on supporting growth in the region."

Ellen Walsh, a partner at Grant Thornton, said: "The Government must be wary of pursuing policies which stimulate economic rebalancing and recovery in other regions at the expense of the South East."

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

Comment

LAST WEEK I interviewed Jon Rimmer, chairman of highly-respected property and auctions firm Hobbs Parker, who told me he defied anyone to predict property market trends at present.

And that pretty much goes for all other business sectors, with the result that confidence across Kent firms is going up and down like a yo-yo, which doesn't make it any easier to report on either.

And the last thing I want is for us to be accused of talking us into yet more economic troubles.

But it's a tough call, which makes it refreshing to hear this week that Ashford food producer Millifoods is embarking on major expansion (see this week's Big Interview) despite sluggish UK economic growth and after identifying just the right conditions to favour its quality frozen foods for the retail trade.

It put me in mind of what serial entrepreneur and Dragons' Den star James Caan told this year's Kent 2020 business exhibition back in April, when he said anyone could run a business in an upturn – the real gift was being able to survive and even flourish when times are hard.

This also draws together several news threads I've gathered lately, suggesting how many companies got ahead of themselves in the boom times, neglecting fiscal good housekeeping and embarking on foolhardy new ventures without properly researching their market, yet getting away with it in those profligate times.

I'm hearing now that the reality check of recession has made many bosses and managers just grip the reins tighter and learn lessons they thought they didn't need to before.

And it hasn't always meant shedding jobs, slashing production or selling assets, but simply looking at overheads, eliminating waste and chasing invoices. It bodes well for growth as real confidence returns.

There's still the shock and awe of the Government's October spending review to come though… but let's not talk ourselves into the dumps.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

That's so cool

AT THE heart of London's tallest new building is a network of pipes from Medway Galvanising that will help keep workers cool, ***writes Steve Loader***.

The air-conditioning system being installed by Skanska at Heron Tower in Bishopsgate depends on a complex system that runs 220 metres from the basement to the top of cooling towers on the 46th floor and back.

As with any building project in central London, the schedule is tight, pace frenetic and attention to detail critical, which is why contractor Skanska turned to Medway Galvanising.

Skanska engineer Paul O'Sullivan said steel was the ideal material, but the galvanising process was critical: "It's got to be right and, for this sort of high-profile, deadline-driven project, it's got to be on time."

Sittingbourne-based Medway Galvanising – fully accredited to all the latest BS and ISO standards – made sure it met both demands. Another Skanska project chief, John Wickens, also praised Medway Galvanising's "quick turnaround and keen pricing" adding that it was "very responsive to our needs".

Heron Tower will be completed in early 2011 and topped by a spire that makes it the tallest building in London, at least until the Shard of Glass – set to be the tallest building in the EU – opens at London Bridge in 2012.

The cooling system Medway Galvanising played a role in creating is part of an environmental approach that won the tower a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method rating of 'excellent'.

HIGH AND MIGHTY: How Heron Tower will look on completion

"By protecting steel against corrosion, something that costs the country millions each year, galvanising can make a significant contribution to the health of the economy," said Medway Galvanising MD Colin Grant.

"As the country seeks to cut costs and become more efficient in the way it uses raw materials, galvanising is the ideal way of bringing those two aims together. It cuts waste, reduces maintenance, minimises long-term costs and vastly extends the life of one of the strongest and most flexible building materials there is."

MILLIFOODS, the Ashford-based frozen food manufacturer, has appointed Julie Farmer to the new post of national account manager. With 15 years' experience in catering management, Julie will boost a UK-wide sales drive as Millifoods embarks on an ambitious downturn-defying expansion over the next two years, aimed at growing the current £4 million turnover by 50 per cent.

JULIE FARMER

MD Stephen Drew – who co-founded the company in 1999 with Shelagh Milligan, wife of the late Spike Milligan – said: "Julie brings a wealth of experience to our team and I'm delighted she has chosen to continue her career with us.

"I'm well acquainted with Julie's sales and management skills, as we enjoyed a close working relationship at Brakes years ago. She was national manufacturing accounts manager and I worked in product development. She's a great catch and I'm looking forward to renewing our working relationship."

Julie had wide experience across the industry as a chef and in catering and pub management roles before switching to sales – most recently as commercial manager at Bar Foods.

She said: "I'm excited to be working with Stephen again and looking forward to this new challenge. Millifoods' products are outstanding, some of the best in the sector.

"I'm joining a great team with huge commitment to expanding the business – I'm confident there's bags of potential to achieve our goal."

• For more on the Millifoods success story, see this week's The Big Interview.

To view this clip, log on @ www.businessforkent.co.uk

Julie Maddocks meets Lydd Airport champion and former MD Jonathan Gordon and hears how he caught the aviation bug

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CAR dealers have been warned by their trade body, the SMMT, that the market could be tricky for the rest of 2010. Registrations are still tipped to beat last year's level and reach two million – a growth of 1.2 per cent – and that would be without the government-backed Scrappage incentives on new cars for much of this year. Significantly, smaller cars are not doing so well without the £2,000-a-time Scrappage handout – sales of bigger cars have driven the market lately. Ford is still the market No1 and its Fiesta supermini the outright leading model, but brand sales are down 5.4 per cent – the major beneficiaries of the slightly better market are Renault, Toyota, BMW and Land Rover.

ORBITAL Marketing Services, a Kent-based group with locations around the UK, has completed some rebranding.

The former JEM Digital Print operation in Ashford has become Orbital Print – which also recently acquired another local business, The Print Room. Orbital's MacDonald Mailing operation in Sittingbourne has also been rebranded as Orbital Mailing, while Northampton logistics arm Orbital Response and Fulfilment becomes simply Orbital Response.

Group MD Paul Markland said: "We are bringing our three skill-based businesses, each with its own client base and focus on a specific but complementary capability, into line using consistent branding and refreshed logos to clearly reflect their link to the Orbital family."

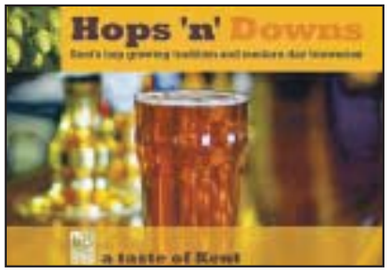
WEST Malling station will soon open a new car park with 281 spaces, including some for the disabled.
The 24-hour facility, to be operated by Kenden Parking, has been designed to the high standards with state-of-the-art lighting, a daytime manned presence, CCTV security and security patrols. Parking will be £4 a day between Monday and Friday inclusive and £1.50 a day at weekends and bank holidays. Land for the car park was donated by Kings Hill mixed-use developer Liberty Property Trust UK and KCC from surplus land acquired in connection with the dualling of the A228.

MEMBERS of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce are being offered a free debt advisory service on selected dates in October, November and December. It is being launched in partnership with Kent law firm Furley Page whose debt recovery and insolvency team is recognised by independent legal guides Chambers UK and The Legal 500.

The advisory service, at the chamber's Ashford office, is available from 9am-1pm on October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, and December 1 and 15. The confidential and free one-hour appointment will look at issues affecting business cash flow and long-term debtors, and offer advice on how to free-up money in order to make your business more profitable. Contact Rob Booth on 01233 503838 or via rob@kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

EXPRESS delivery firm City Link, which has a Maidstone depot, has launched a pioneering security system on its vans. Each now has four cameras – two on the van doors, one in the freight hold, and one in the driver's cab – monitoring collection and delivery activities even while the van is unattended. A spokesman said: "If a customer tells us a parcel has not been delivered we can work out what has happened. The satellite tracking system we use in conjunction with the images will show exactly what happened at any point. VanCam will play a significant part in reducing loss and claims."

Back on the brewing map with guide



COUNTY food and drink champion Produced in Kent has brewed the perfect reason for beer lovers, walkers and visitors to pay a visit to the Garden of England by relaunching its free trail guide Hops 'n' Downs.

It also highlights a steady revival of a once great industry. Aimed to coincide with September beer festivals and hop garden events across the county, the guide is circulated via tourist information centres and can be downloaded from www.producedinkent.co.uk.

Hops 'n' Downs charts the rich history of Kent hop growing and beer making and includes a fascinating listing of different hop varieties and flavours, where to find the best real ale and outstanding pubs selling locally produced food.

Dave Hughes, author of Hops' n' Downs, spent months researching the guide and is excited by the revitalisation of Kent ales through significant growth in microbreweries.

He said: "With the slow decline in hop growing in Kent hastened by competition from hop growers around the world and changing tastes in alcohol, it would be easy to assume that beer brewing is a dying art in Kent.

"This couldn't be further from the truth, with an encouraging and notable body of innovative new microbreweries putting Kent very clearly on the beer map of Great Britain."

Kent has long been associated with the growing of hops, while oast houses have become symbolic of the county. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, thousands of acres were devoted to growing hops, with up to 80,000 people involved in the annual harvest.

A rich brewing heritage is highlighted by Shepherd Neame in Faversham – Britain's oldest independent brewery – but many other names and brews disappeared over time.

Fortunately, they are now being replaced by new ones from award-winners like the Ramsgate Brewery, Chatham's Nelson Brewing Company, Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewing Co, and Whitstable Brewery, as well as the Hopdaemon Brewery in Newnham, Old Dairy Brewery in Rolvenden and Tonbridge Brewery. Although the county's hop acreage has reduced to about 1,000 acres, surviving hop gardens continue to form a distinctive and cherished feature of Kent's landscape.

Wye Hops (formerly at Wye College) has also been at the forefront of research into hop cultivation, with the recent development and introduction of more practical dwarf varieties, changing the traditional appearance of some hop gardens.

Powerhouse alliance call

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESSES have called for a joint Kent and Greater Essex Local Enterprise Partnership.

If successful, the joint proposal could lead to the creation of the largest LEP in England to support the business community, attract investment and create jobs.

Bringing together the best in businesses and local government across both counties, the LEP would promote growth and tackle issues that matter most to businesses and residents, including skills, housing, tourism, transport and infrastructure.

Major opportunities identified include:

- New development in the Thames Gateway, creating 113,000 jobs in north Kent and south Essex over 20 years.
- A third Thames crossing.
- Continuing growth of international seaport trade in both counties.
- A road network linking the sea and airports to London, the rest of the UK and Ireland.
- Coastal regeneration and renewal.
- Offshore renewable energy potential.
- Expansion of air services at Manston and Southend to provide greater capacity in the South East and support regeneration.

Competing

The proposal is already with ministers and could be in place by April 1, next year, if the coalition Government backs it.

Geoff Miles, chairman of the Kent Economic Board, said he though the Kent and Essex bid gave the best chance of competing with 'City Regions' further to the north, adding: "There is a great opportunity to redress the east-west prosperity imbalance around London. This partnership can champion and tackle the area's key infrastructure investments that are needed and help kick-start priority projects."

PAUL CARTER

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said there was a real chance to turn both counties into "economic powerhouses" using their similarities, economies of scale and political ambition. With a combined population of 3.4 million and a business community of nearly 115,000 companies supporting 1.3 million jobs, he said Kent and Essex combined were bigger than 13 European countries and contribute £55 billion to the national economy every year.

"Following the dismantling of the old regional structures, we can now create the best in business and the best in local government to deliver creative solutions to unlock the potential for substantial external grants," he said.

"We want this partnership to help build the right environment for business to flourish and create new employment opportunities.

"It will also help us look at how we overcome the obstacles to new development and to find innovative approaches to private finance and planning to get the right infrastructure in place to support this. Our approach will be lean, pragmatic and business-focused to support the best investment for Kent and Essex."

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Charity sector braced for VAT increase has options to consider

CHARITIES think they are in for a shock when VAT rises to 20 per cent in January, but Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells accountancy Horwath Clark Whitehill (HCW) has moved to reassure them.

There have been predictions that the tax hike from the current 17.5 per cent could cost charities as much as £150 million a year, at a time when donations are falling as the public tightens its belt.

John Dent, a partner with HCW who specialises in the not-for-profit sector, said: "To organisations that are not fully taxable, such as charities, this rise is effectively increasing their operational cost base, and comes at a time when people are being more prudent with their money and donations are low."

But he added: "There are a number of routes that charities can follow. Although there are anti-forestalling measures in place to be aware of, charities in particular may be able to consider asking suppliers to advance invoices ahead of the increase.

"Charities should be encouraging their supporters to make the most of Gift Aid, in order to maximise the use of all money donated, and VAT registration is another option, which although involving a lot of administration, could provide savings on items such as IT equipment."

And he believes the Budget rise in capital gains tax may result in wealthier individuals being more likely to gift assets to charities to avoid paying the higher rate.

Through the Budget, Prime Minister David Cameron also pledged a commitment to continue working closely with the sector, which he described as "the excellent charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises that do so much for our country", suggesting there could be easier times ahead for the sector.

JOHN DENT: Reassurance

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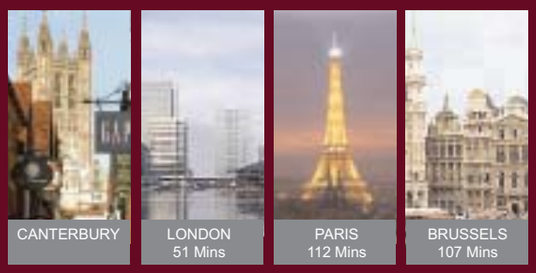

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THE BIG INTERVIEW

Multiple award-winning food manufacturer Millifoods made a senior appointment this week – see our story on Julie Farmer earlier in this section – signalling a major expansion by the Ashford firm. At a time of sluggish economic growth, the move is typical of its entrepreneurial managing director Stephen Drew, who co-founded the company just 10 years ago after a chance meeting with Spike Milligan and his wife Shelagh. Business Week editor Steve Loader reports on the man behind the company's metamorphosis from niche supplier of vegetarian dishes into producer of some 300 recipes, serving some blue-chip names in food retail

STEPHEN DREW

MILLIFOODS is clearly successful and MD Stephen Drew plans a 50 per cent expansion over the next two years, from the current annual turnover of £4 million.

Yet there are no flashy offices at the company headquarters just off the M20 at Hinxhill, Ashford.

Stephen's one show of indulgence is a smart Mercedes convertible, but he insists surplus is mostly ploughed back into the business, its products and the 40-strong workforce – all have Food Hygiene Certification and are signed up to undertake relevant NVQs when they join.

"The business has grown unbelievably and I have brought more managers on board to take us to the next stage," he said.

"Currently, the factory is running one eight-hour shift, but we have the capacity to run more. We make a high-quality product for a low-margin return.

"It's all about volume to drive the business forward, but not at the expense of product. We don't have a boardroom. I don't have my own office. Most companies in our sector will invest a quarter of the selling price in the actual food – with us it's at least half or even three-quarters."

But he says this is Millifoods' strength in a competitive market, facing well-established firms who already have long relationships with the dwindling number of client contacts caused by takeovers and mergers on the food retail side.

Discussing his latest appointment of former Brakes colleague Julie Farmer as national account manager, he said: "Bringing Julie on board to do a job I used to do is a big decision, but it's time to move things along. Yes, people talk about the economy struggling, but people are still eating out – they just want better value via the high street chains and in-store restaurants.

"I'm also in a good position to step up because I have a loyal staff – some have been here since we started our own production – and we have a very low churn of people, which is unusual in this sector."

Stephen started the company after a chance meeting with Spike Milligan and his wife Shelagh at a party in 1998. The eccentric ex-Goon was an enthusiastic vegetarian and famously caused a scene in Harrods' food hall when he tried to stuff spaghetti down the throat of the manager to show him how a goose felt when force-fed corn to make pâté de foie gras.

Stephen recalled: "Shelagh lamented that she could not get anything vegetarian, especially when they went out to eat. My background was food service and we just said, 'why don't we set up a frozen vegetarian food business?'At this time Stephen had a successful career with Brake Brothers – now Brakes – the Kent-based food producer and distributor, but was excited about starting his own company and asked Shelagh to come up with eight Milligan favourite veggie recipes.

GOOD TASTE: Testing Millifoods' award-winning Spicy Meat dish – Stephen with product development manager Tracey Mitchell

ON THE ROAD: Stephen enjoys showing off his cooking skills

is proof of the pudding

"Some had typically eccentric names like Carpenter's Pie and Penne Cleopatra, but how they got them is forgotten now," he laughed. "But they were all excellent and still available for production here."

Four of the launch dishes were taken up by holiday site chain Bourne Leisure, which includes brands such as Butlins and Haven, and a big celebration was staged at the Milligans' home near Rye, East Sussex.

Early on, Millifoods ran almost like a family business, said Stephen, adding: "Spike was very much behind the vegetarian thing, though Shelagh never wanted him used to promote the company.

"I knew him for six years and we got on like a house on fire. We used to go out a lot together for meals. When Shelagh and I went out to business meetings he would ring afterwards to check how we got on. When we got back, there would be a bottle of wine chilled and glasses out so that we could drink with him and tell him about our day."

However, he was quite frail by this time – he died in 2002, aged 83 – and third wife Shelagh was 25 years his junior

"I think he felt the company would give her something to focus on after his death," recalled Stephen. "As she has become more comfortable with being on her own, she has looked to her other interests."

He now has sole control of the firm, which originally contracted out production before starting in-house production in May, 2004.

It also diversified into meat and fish dishes after Spike's death in order to offer the range and volume to grow the business, which supplies many top names such as Bhs: "In the winter our cottage pie outsells fish and chips in Bhs restaurants, which is unheard of in this business," said Stephen.

But he is reluctant to disclose many other customers' names: "People don't realise that many of the dishes they eat are not made by the companies selling them," he explained. He has won landmark contracts though, such as all vegetarian dishes served onsite at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, and his firm is currently pitching for contracts at the London Olympics in 2012.

But the food industry was a long way from his mind when his family moved to Kingsnorth, near Ashford. His childhood passion was showjumping, but his parents Derek and Sheila – who both ran successful businesses – then talked about taking on a restaurant or pub.

He thought he might help out by taking a two-year catering course in Folkestone on leaving school in 1980.

"When I left college I rang Brake Brothers at Lenham and asked about a chef's job," said Stephen. "They said they only had a vacancy as a cleaner. I really wanted to work for them so I ended up starting at noon and working until four on the line and then, from four until nine cleaning the factory.

"I did that for six months and then a job came up as chef, then factory supervisor, factory manager …"

He ended working across most departments, giving him wide-ranging knowledge of his sector and no doubt contributing to a Millifoods' awards roll too lengthy to mention. His latest challenge is entry into the forthcoming 2010 Pizza, Pasta and Italian Food Association awards, where he faces competition from authentic Italian firms.

But one of the best endorsements came when an unnamed Millifoods customer challenged fiery celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay to sample some of their suppliers' dishes. Stephen said: "In this kind of situation and for award entries, it is common for the samples to be 'enhanced' by more meat or fish, but I have to have absolute faith in our products and simply pull them straight from stock and send out. He [Ramsey] couldn't believe that something of that quality could be sold for that price." Millifoods' top sellers are Cottage Pie, Lasagne and Scottish Macaroni Cheese – which features extra mature Scottish red cheese. But does he become frustrated by the dishes he cannot promote?

"Very much. Everybody in this business watches which lines sell best, but it means that they and their customers miss out on some great food. One of our most underrated recipes is one of Shelagh's originals – a Russian beetroot stew. It looks fantastic and it's delicious, but will anybody take it?"

Away from the office, he enjoys going on the road with cooking demonstrations to show people how simple and tasty dishes can be created on a tight budget.

His flair for this was also recognised by the TV show Eating With The Enemy in 2007, hosted by James Martin, when it came looking for personalities to appear.

"Unfortunately, I was criticised for adding too much garlic to my dish," he laughed. "But it was great fun."

His favourite relaxation is having family and friends round for dinner, cooking and holding court in the kitchen at home. He also enjoys travelling mixed with catching up with family – he has a twin brother in New York and his sister lives in Cape Town.

STEPHEN'S TOP TIPS

- Dedication – "Running your own business is a 24/7 operation and if things get tight I simply pitch in with production – sometimes you've just got to do it."
- Run a business to be your own boss rather than to make money – "I already had a career and a nice home. I didn't do this for money – I wanted to run my own company."
- Believe in the product – "You have to. I would never sell anything that I wouldn't eat myself."
- Nurture staff – "They are as important as what you produce. It's not a cliché here to say we are one big happy family. We work hard, but we often get together and when it's quiet on production, I send people home – when it's busy they give that bit extra. It works."

STEPHEN DREW'S CV

- 1982 – joined Brake Brothers at the former Lenham site after leaving catering college and worked his way up through the production side to hold several managerial and sales posts.
- 2000 – co-founded Millifoods with Shelagh Milligan, later becoming MD with full control of the Ashford-based company.

SAVOURING VICTORY: Stephen scoops yet another award for Millifoods

TALK THE LINE: Stephen Drew of Millifoods

NOW OPEN: MP Greg Clark (right) does the honours with Reliance Mutual's chief executive Mark Goodale

Insurer's offices get MP's vote

By **STEVE LOADER**
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RELIANCE Mutual's new head office in Tunbridge Wells has been opened by local MP and minister Greg Clark.

The 15,000 sq ft HQ in Vale Avenue has been purpose-built for the insurance firm, which has been associated with the Kent spa town since 1939 and employs nearly 80 people.

Greg Clark – the area's Conservative MP since 2005 and now minister at the Department for Communities and Local Government – said he was delighted to open the offices, which underlined Reliance Mutual's longstanding commitment to Tunbridge Wells.

He added: "Being owned by and answerable to their members, mutuals provide a valued and longstanding alternative model for financial services and it is tremendous to see Reliance Mutual going from strength to strength."

Chief executive Mark Goodale said: "Reliance Mutual is celebrating its centenary and for 70 of those 100 years, we have been in Tunbridge Wells. Over that period, we have established a strong position in the community both as an employer and a business, which I am delighted will continue."

"I am extremely grateful to Mr Clark for agreeing to formally open the new office, which will be both a more modern and professional environment for my colleagues and more practical on an operational level as we continue to serve our members."

Reliance Mutual previously shared the Great Hall in Mount Pleasant Road with the BBC.

KENT Potato Company has launched the first in a series of own label varieties, to be sold by Tesco stores in the county.

Spokesman Eddie Knowles said: "The aim of the Kent Potato Company brand is to highlight and educate customers about the great products available on their doorstep.

"Tesco has been a key partner in ensuring local businesses like ourselves have a presence within the community and our own research has highlighted how important provenance is to the consumer."

The launch marks the beginning of a renaissance for the company previously known as St Nicholas Court farms until its acquisition by The Jersey Royal Company last year and a £1.65 million spend on the packhouse, delivery and coldstore areas.

SWALE Heating – Kent-based and the largest independent heating company in the south of England – has secured a further four-year contract to service gas heating systems for the Russet housing association's 6,900 properties in west Kent.

Russet owns and manages a range of properties from one-bedroom flats to four-bedroom houses, and an operations spokesman said: "Swale Heating are key partners in ensuring Russet maintains the highest possible standards of home safety and service. Our longstanding partnership with Swale is based on mutually held values and objectives and represents both high quality service delivery and value for money."

That's the way the crumble cooks in world record bid

RECORDS went tumbling when two Faversham firms joined forces to create a giant apple and blackberry crumble.

The team from fruit producer Fourayes Farm and Norman Collett English Fruit Marketing went head-to-head at Brogdale Farm with nearby catering firm Scott Anderson in a challenge set by Monster Munchies, a new show for the Good Food TV channel.

Fourayes' and Norman Collett's one tonne monster was an incredible five times heavier than the largest fruit crumble currently recorded by Guinness World Records and impressed the judges for its presentation and taste as well as sheer size.

Both teams had just 24 hours to create the dish before the judging panel stepped in, marshalled by former England rugby star and well-known foodie Matt Dawson – the show's presenter.

Other Kent companies who contributed to the team success included Beaneys' Bakery in Strood; Millifoods in Ashford; and WB Chambers and Son in Maidstone.

Team leader Sarah Calcutt, the business development manager at Norman Collett, said: "The last few days have been extremely hectic, from sourcing the ingredients and working out the logistics, to rigorous health and safety checks – not to mention the cooking itself. But it's all been worthwhile and great fun."

Fourayes MD Phil Acock said: "When Sarah approached us about the super-sizing opportunity she told us her biggest concern was peeling and dicing the huge quantity of apples required.

"This was right up our street. We were able to not only prepare the apples, but create the entire Bramley apple and blackberry filling.

"Fruit fillings are our speciality. We process over 11,000 tonnes of Bramleys every year for use in desserts and baked goods across the country. We're always open to new challenges and are delighted with the result today."

FRUITFUL: The team with winning crumble (from left) Phil Acock, Lee Ruddell and Jo Custance of Fourayes; Sarah Calcutt of Norman Collett; Jim Hughes of Fourayes; Andrew Boxall of Norman Collett

• ***Monster Munchies, weeknights at 10pm, from November 8 on Good Food.***

The dark arts of 'going viral'

By **NICK TOWERS**
Director of Sagittarius Digital

COMEDIAN Tim Minchin said recently that for all his "intertextuality, softly spoken sophistry, his jokes, swear words and smut" he would "never be as popular on YouTube as kittens waking up".

Nick Towers

Good point. How do you become a YouTube superstar? Viral marketing is something of a dark art and we often get asked, "How do you make a successful viral anyway?"

The answer is: you don't – people do. Yes, your idea has to be clever, witty, maybe even a little self-deprecating, but for any viral campaign to take off you need people enjoying your viral video so much they feel compelled to forward to friends, post on their Facebook profiles, and tweet, re-tweet and blog about it.

Social media – particularly Facebook and Twitter – makes everyone a blogger with a potentially huge circle of influence.

However, for people to state their affection for your brand so publicly requires real belief.

"Brands that do viral well put the right message in front of the right people at the right time, via the social channels they use every day. Do viral campaigns actually work? New Media Age magazine says a single viral's shelf life is relatively short – apparently only 8.5 per cent stay in the Top 10 for more than a week – but you can achieve longer-term success by integrating your viral with search and social media. One in six page views in the UK are pages on Facebook – an amazing statistic that can't be ignored.

My top tips to make a video go viral:

• Involve your audience. Old Spice's 'The Man Your Man Could Smell Like' campaign stormed it by combining YouTube, Facebook and Twitter in an interactive way. It started with a video to market the company's shower gel, featuring actor Isaiah Mustafa saying 'anything is possible' if a man uses Old Spice.

It quickly went global after fans, random internet visitors and bloggers were invited to post questions to Isaiah, who responded by making personalised videos on YouTube.

• Do something controversial, weird or wacky. Blendtec's 'Will It Blend?' campaign went big after the first viral on YouTube showed a presenter trying to blend different hard objects in the company's blender.

Blendtec followed this up by asking the audience to email their requests for objects to be blended in the next episode – the most recent of which was an iPad. Blendtec's novel but subtle way to prove the sturdiness of its product has seen sales triple and the videos gain cult status.

• Spark a debate. The Nike/Ronaldinho 'Touch of Gold' video is one of the most-watched virals ever, with more than 50 million views globally. It shows footballer Ronaldinho, wearing Nike R10 boots, hitting the crossbar four times without the ball touching the ground. Was it real or computer generated?

Either way, it sparked a massive discussion and drove people online in their millions to judge for themselves.

• Make it easy for people to share your video. It's what viral marketing is all about. Ensure the video can be downloaded in a usable format and can be published on various social networking sites, embedded on people's own sites and easily forwarded.

• And, most importantly, avoid just trying to promote your product or service as being great. It won't wash. Provoke a strong reaction from your audience – laughter, shock, disbelief – and you'll make a good start.

• ***Nick Towers is director of digital at Ashford-based Sagittarius Digital, part of Sagittarius Marketing. Contact him via nick@sagittarius-digital.com.***

On course for practical skills across county

BUDDING brickies, carpenters and mechanics can take advantage of a new series of short courses starting from later this month.

Thanet, Dover and Thamesview vocational skills centres have partnered with Kent Adult Education Services to help over-18s across several practical subjects. The centres and courses are:

• Thanet – motor vehicle maintenance, and home improvement for beginners.

• Dover – DIY for beginners and bricklayer for beginners.

• Thamesview – introduction to motor mechanics, introduction to bricklaying, introduction to carpentry, and painting and decorating techniques.

Start dates for these courses range from September 28, this year, to May 4, 2011. Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for children, families and education at Kent County Council, said: "Kent pioneered and introduced transformational vocational courses for 14 to 16-year-olds. The buildings in Thanet, Dover and Thamesview offer our young people a great choice of education in practical subjects.

"Now we are working with adult education to make even more use of these facilities."

For more details: Thanet Skills Studio 01843 233130; Dover Skills Centre 01304 826469 and Thamesview School 01474 566552.

Also see kentadulteducation.co.uk.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on hospitality, travel and tourism

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01303 817071

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** THE majority of Kent's non-league sides were in action in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Tunbridge Wells won 2-1 away to Eastbourne United, but neighbours Tonbridge Angels were held to a 2-2 draw by Bexhill United at the Angel Ground and forced to travel to the coast for a replay.

Maidstone United beat Gravesend & Northfleet 2-1 at the Athletic Ground, while Dartford won a nine-goal thriller away to Cray, beating the Wanderers 5-4.

Ramsgate and Folkestone drew 1-1 at Southwood, Whitstable crashed to a 6-1 loss at Snowdown Colliery Welfare and Sittingbourne won their derby with Sheppey at Botany Road 4-1.

Kent's biggest winners were Deal Town however, who thrashed neighbours Betteshanger 7-1 away.

In the Football League, Gillingham thrashed Aldershot 5-2 at Priestfield to move up to seventh place in Division Four.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** KENT derailed Hampshire's title aspirations by forcing a draw at Folkestone.

The visitors, in a three-way hunt for the championship with Middlesex and Gloucestershire, declared on 333 for 9 in their first innings and Kent replied with 259, over half of which was made by Chris Cowdrey's 131.

Needing to force a win to stay in the race, Hants declared on 156 for 5 in their second innings, setting Kent a gettable target of 231 from 62 overs.

The home side were wobbling on 47 for 4 when Cowdrey and Eldine Baptiste put on 110 in 30 overs, but Kent's hopes of victory were dented when the former was lbw for 39.

Baptiste then followed for 68 and Kent batted out the draw.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** YORKSHIRE were routed by 64 runs in a day/night game at Canterbury.

Matthew Fleming's 85-ball 79 was the bedrock of Kent's innings and despite failing to bat out their 44 overs, the home side's total of 217 proved more than adequate.

Michael Vaughan's dismissal proved crucial. The future England captain had made a patient 39 when he was caught and bowled by Mark Ealham, prompting a Yorkshire collapse from 88 for 2 to 153 all out.

Fleming took 3 for 19 to cap a superb all-round display and Martin Saggers chipped in with 3 for 22.

Gillingham suffered a 1-0 defeat away to a Grimsby side that included Alan Pouton in the Football League championship, going down to a second minute goal by striker Stephen Livingstone in front of a crowd of 4,512 at Blundell Park.

How will our clubs find life at top of the league tree?

Men and ladies face biggest season

Picture: ADY KERRY

RETURN: Kwan Browne's Canterbury are in the top flight for the first time in two seasons and the head coach is aiming for a top-five finish

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

THE HOCKEY season returns next weekend with the county represented in both the men's and women's top flight for the first time in three seasons.

Following a two-season exile in the Conference East, Canterbury's men are back in the Premier Division after winning the promotion tournament in May.

The management have not rested on their laurels, retaining the core of last season's squad, including Trinidad & Tobago's Mickel Pierre. They have also added the skilful South African Matt Botha, attacking midfielder Tom Butt, Holcombe striker Liam Foster and England under-21 goalkeeper Jason Waitt.

Head coach Kwan Browne is not looking to just make up the numbers this term.

"We really think we have got enough to push on and get into the top five to have a chance of qualifying for Europe," he said. "Being back in the Premier League is great, there's a big buzz around the club and everyone wants to get off to a good start."

The men's promotion means they have restored parity with the club's women's section, who are one of the division's longest serving teams.

Emulating last season's fifth place will be the minimum requirement for new coach Nick Clark, who succeeded Ian Jennings this summer. The squad has a good blend of youth and experience, but will have to make do without Natalie Seymour for the first few weeks of the campaign, with the defender on England duty at the Commonwealth Games.

There is plenty of Kent interest one level below in the Conference East. Sevenoaks can claim with some justification they are the county's second biggest club, with both their men's and women's teams competing.

Stronger

The ladies' team only missed out on the league title on goal difference last season, but team manager Christine Crosley is expecting an even tougher task this time around.

She said: "The teams who have come up will be better equipped than last season so I think the league will be stronger.

"It will be very tight and that's not a bad thing because more teams will be able to take points from the top clubs."

After sixth place last season, any improvement will mean a top half finish for Oaks' men. Holcombe, who finished fourth, will be hoping the loss of Foster will not hamper their efforts, while Bromley and Beckenham need a big improvement after winning just twice in 18 league games.

Tulloch aims to ring changes despite UK School Games win

VICTORY at last weekend's UK School Games has not gone to Courtney Tulloch's head as the Maidstone gymnast continues his preparations for the British Championships.

Tulloch, 14, retained his all-round individual title at the Games and also claimed first-place on the high-bar, although he had to settle for second on his strongest piece, rings.

However, he admitted there were mistakes in his performances, something which impressed Fef Griffin, director at the Pegasus Gymnastics Club where Tulloch trains.

She said: "I was pleased he was prepared to say publicly that he made mistakes and that he accepted that. He wasn't hiding, he was quite upfront and he knows why he made them.

"The all-round title is more valuable than any individual apparatus and it was probably good for him not to win on rings. Sometimes, when you're trying new combinations it doesn't quite work, but you need to take it up a level at some point."

The British junior team, including Tulloch, will train at Pegasus this week before flying to Germany for an international event in Cottbus.

Tulloch's main focus, though, is breaking into the top-three at the British Championships which take place in Leicester on November 5 and picking up medals on at least two individual pieces of apparatus.

Picture: HELEN COOPER

PERFECT BALANCE: Courtney Tulloch

STROKE PLAY: Alfie Plant
Picture: ADY KERRY

Rochester & Cobham represent Kent in the club championships

KENT'S golf clubs will be represented by Rochester & Cobham Park this weekend as they go for glory at the Champion Club Tournament.

The three-man team will compete against 33 other clubs from across the country looking to be crowned national champions at Woodbridge Golf Club in Suffolk.

Rochester & Cobham qualified for the prestigious event by winning the team prize at the Kent Amateur Championship in June.

Alfie Plant won the stroke play phase of the tournament at Langley Park, Beckenham, finishing just ahead of club and county team-mate Jack Colegate. Jordan Goodwin was the third member of the side, which finished 12 shots clear of nearest challengers Dartford.

A team representing Kent has only won the Champion Club Tournament once in its 27-year history, when Southern Valley, near Gravesend, took the title in 2003.

This year's defending champions are Cumbria's Workington, who are the team to beat with two of their victorious team returning to the competition.

Play began on Saturday and the team with the lowest aggregate scores over 36 holes will be crowned champions on Sunday night.

Cath could bow out after World Cup heartache

Skipper to ponder England future after final defeat against Black Ferns

By STEVE TERVET

ENGLAND captain Cath Spencer says she may have played in her last World Cup after suffering the pain of defeat against New Zealand in last Sunday's final.

The 31-year-old led her side to the brink of a famous victory at the Twickenham Stoop, but is undecided as to whether she will continue playing up to the 2014 tournament.

Spencer, born in Ashford, had hoped to lead England to their first World Cup victory since 1994, but the Black Ferns proved too strong once again and edged out the host nation 13-10.

While Spencer believes the core of the England squad will return in four years' time, she conceded her own future remained less certain.

"I don't know [if I'll be back], it's a bit too early to say," she said. "I'm 31 now so I'll be 35, which is getting on a bit in international rugby. As individuals and as a team, we can still get better and we'll still have a strong nucleus of this team in four years' time. I want to retain the Six Nations and win another Grand Slam, and I'll make a decision after that."

One of Spencer's great wishes before the World Cup was to boost the profile of women's rugby and with the final played out in front of 13,253, the evidence is that her side captured the nation's imagination.

The anguish of losing by such a narrow margin clearly hurt England, but Spencer insists they should all be hugely proud of their performances during the tournament.

"It's mixed emotions," she said. "We're gutted, devastated we didn't win, but we're very proud of the way we played, particularly the first 20 minutes when we kept New Zealand out. Walking out onto the pitch and hearing the national anthem was something I'll never forget. It was a special moment and in some ways, it was written for us to win the World Cup.

"The whole tournament was a success and all the players can be proud. The profile of the sport has gone to new levels and there are numbers of people watching the game which we'd never have thought possible."

Picture: CAPTURE THE EVENT

DECISION TIME: Catherine Spencer applauds the England fans after defeat in the final, and may now call time on her international career

Having given up her job at a leisure centre to focus entirely on the World Cup, she begins a new position as a rugby development manager in the South West later next month.

"I've enjoyed years within rugby at all levels, from Folkestone up to the Premiership," she said. "I can now put something back into the sport and encourage more people to take up rugby, whether it be playing, coaching or refereeing."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

STAYING PUT: Damian Lyons (in blue)

Key players stay committed to the Crusaders' cause

BASKETBALL returns this weekend as Medway Park Crusaders begin their National Cup campaign with ambitious hopes about the season ahead.

Scheduling clashes over the next few weeks have brought the fixture forward, so Sunday's first round tie against Team Solent is the first fixture of the entire domestic calendar.

The early start complicates selection for the home side, who are yet to finalise the signings of their two overseas players.

Despite the absences, Crusaders head coach James Vear is expecting the remainder of his squad to have more than enough for Team Solent, who play one tier below them in Division Three.

He said: "I don't think it's going to be a huge problem because the imports haven't been in yet, so the squad doesn't know any different. It shouldn't be an issue, I'm confident in the rest of the team."

The core of the squad has been retained from last year, including skipper Sam Betts, vice-captain Damian Lyons, and JP Dimandja, while it has been supplemented with a sprinkling of talent promoted from the club's youth set-up.

Tip-off at Medway Park is at 3pm on Sunday.

House and Rapha to make tour charge

RELATIVE anonymity in a strong peloton could prove to be an advantage as Kristian House's Rapha Condor Sharp team look to make an impact in the Tour of Britain, ***writes David Pritchard.***

The race, the biggest on the domestic calendar, began with a stage across the Penines from Rochdale to Blackpool on Saturday. It continues with an undulating stage around Stoke on Trent on Sunday, which is likely to be key in the battle for the general classification.

The field includes some of the biggest teams in the sport, including Team Sky, HTC Columbia and Team Saxo Bank. Bradley Wiggins, fourth at last year's Tour de France, heads a long list of star riders, which also includes Geraint Thomas, Mark Renshaw and Robbie Hunter.

For House, who grew up near Canterbury, and the rest of the Rapha team, it marks a rare chance to take on the sport's elite. The 30-year-old, who finished 10th overall in last year's race as national road race champion, believes they are well placed to spring a surprise.

"We want to be known as an aggressive team that's seen racing," he said. "We want to be seen that we can race at this level, it's a bit of a step up for us, but we have prepared for it well. Riding in the national jersey last year, while it was special, also made me a target."

Winning a stage would rank as one of the biggest one-off victories in his career, but with a competitive line-up at Rapha no-one will be heading into the race as a designated team leader. House also admitted much depends on the way the main teams approach the race.

He said: "Most of the stages suit me this year. It all depends how the race goes, if one of the big teams gets a man out front and they have the best sprinter in the field they will do their best to make sure it's a bunch sprint every day. If that's the way they want to ride it you just have to race aggressively and hope they mess up."

ON THE ROAD: Last year's tour with Kristian House (right) alongside Mark Cavendish

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TAKEOVER TALKS: Paul Bowden-Brown and Oliver Ash

Stones talks nearing end

THE TAKEOVER saga at Maidstone United appears to be nearing a conclusion after chairman Paul Bowden-Brown and shareholder Oliver Ash announced they had agreed terms.

The Ryman Premier League club has been in limbo for several weeks while its long-term future has been decided.

Bowden-Brown has been Stones chairman since 1992, but is now ready to pass control to Ash, subject to the final contract and completion of financial and legal documents.

Offer

The pair spent several weeks negotiating earlier this summer, but talks ended in July without an agreement.

It allowed an alternative offer by Lashings World XI Cricket Club to be made, only for the move to be ruled out with the club claiming it could not go through because it would break FA and Ryman League rules.

The collapse of the Lashings deal prompted the Stones shareholders to meet again earlier this month and they now appear to have found another way forward.

In a statement Bowden-Brown said: "It has taken hours of work to get us to this point. Heads of terms, subject to contract, were signed [on Wednesday].

"Oliver and I are very close to a conclusion and we will inform everyone once we have finalised everything and agreed a takeover date."

Ash originally came on board in February, 2008, when his company, Richmond Participations, invested £100,000 to buy a 25 per cent stake in the club.

If the takeover is finally completed then top of the agenda for the long-suffering Stones fans will be news on developments at the planned new ground at James Whatman Way.

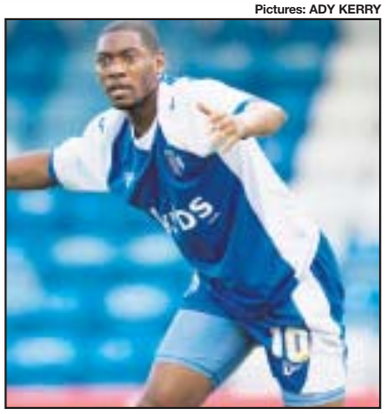
The club is renting Ashford's Homelands this season and have not played in the county town for more than two decades.

'Shape up or be loaned out'

Hess threat to Gills players as poor early season form fails to improve

By DAVID PRITCHARD

Pictures: ADY KERRY



LEARN from your mistakes fast or face being loaned out – that's the threat hanging over some of Gillingham's players following a sluggish start to the campaign.

The Gills went into this weekend's clash with Shrewsbury Town winless from their first five games in League Two, their worst start to a league season for 11 years.

The lowest point so far came with last Saturday's 5-4 defeat at Bury, when Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler told the players they should have been ashamed with their first-half performance.

Crumbled

His main concern was over the inconsistency of the side's defence, which crumbled after conceding the first goal. After the game Hessenthaler threatened the squad's under-performing players with being loaned out if they did not improve.

He said: "The good teams and the best players are the ones that do it week to week.

"We've not done that. It's harsh but if you're not going to learn quickly then you won't be in the team, simple as that, we've got to get players that are going to take it on board on the training ground.

"We've got players out injured, but unfortunately in defensive areas they are a bit longer term. What it might mean is again be a bit ruthless and put players on the loan list.

"We can't get players in until perhaps we've moved a couple of players on. That's how it's got to be, we've got to be honest with them."

The Gills boss made his squad watch a re-run of the Bury game before training on Thursday to emphasise his point.

One player who could watch without pressure was Dennis Oli, who only made his playing return in the reserves on Wednesday.

The winger, who has been out since tearing a hamstring in July, scored twice in the 3-0 win against Brentford's second string.

The 26-year-old has been a frustrated spectator so far, but is not too concerned by the team's early season form.

He said: "I'm not good at watching, it's frustrating because there's nothing I can do to affect the game. You feel for them when they're not getting results because we're like one big family.

"I'm sure we'll turn things round, I've been in the game long enough to know that the first five games doesn't mean anything."

RUTHLESS MOVE: Struggling Gills players like Josh Gowling face being loaned out, while injured striker Dennis Oli (above left) says the team will come good

PACE SETTERS: Louise Cook and Boumani the cheetah

Rally driver left stunned as feline opponent purrs past

AS A rally driver, Louise Cook is used to speed, but even she was blown away by the raw pace of the animal kingdom in an unusual race last weekend.

The 22-year-old from Maidstone took on some of the world's fastest animals at Eagle Heights Wildlife Park in Eynsford. Her Ford Fiesta was just quicker than a peregrine falcon over 150 metres, but was edged out by Boumani, a cheetah.

Cook said: "I am surprised we got as close as we did. The cheetah claws are really effective and on the slippy grass the rally car wheel spins, whilst the cheetah is just gone."

Surgery threat to Camier's season

THE motorsport season may have come to a premature end for Leon Camier after the factory Aprilia rider underwent surgery on his broken wrist this week.

Camier flew to the UK for the operation on Wednesday before returning to his Andorra home, and he may not ride in the final two rounds of the World Superbike Championship.

In a statement on his website, Camier said: "Surgery went really well and the team looking after me did a great job, I can't thank them enough. I'm looking forward to being back home and will be working on getting back to full fitness as soon as I can. Thanks again to everyone for their support and well wishes."

Camier sustained the injury at Germany's Nurburgring circuit last weekend, during qualifying ahead of the 11th round of the championship.

The Ashford-born rider went in full of confidence after securing a podium finish at Silverstone in the previous round, but his weekend was cut short when he crashed on the 21st practice lap of his 60-minute session.

Since winning the British Superbike Championship last year, the 24-year-old has gone from strength to strength on the world stage, securing three podiums prior to his Nurburgring accident.

He sits ninth in the championship standings with two rounds remaining, although he is now unable to finish any higher than fifth in his debut season.

The crash, which came out of the blue with no other rider in the immediate vicinity, left Camier with a gashed knee, but it is the wrist damage which threatens the rest of his campaign. Although injuries to the scaphoid bone are relatively common for motorcycle riders, the limited blood flow slows recovery time significantly.

The penultimate round of the season takes place at Imola, Italy, on September 26 – giving Camier a fortnight to prepare, should he opt to make a quick return.

He has yet to sign a deal for next season although the indications are that he will remain at Aprilia alongside Max Biaggi, who leads the championship by 62 points.

WRIST SURGERY: Racer Leon Camier

EXCLUSIVE We bring you all the latest stories from inside the Kent camp as season nears dramatic climax

Pictures: ADY KERRY

'I have to be aware of my own career'

Kent spinner to weigh up his options

STAYING in Division One of the County Championship is the big target for the last week of this season, not least because it could well have an impact on the make up of the Kent team that starts next summer's campaign.

As far as I am concerned, I want to stay as part of a Kent team which is competitive, and which can win things. I am a Kent boy, and feel a huge loyalty to this club having come up through the ranks.

I very much hope we can play well enough to keep ourselves in the top tier, because it might encourage certain players to remain with us.

The one thing that I would say at this moment, however, is that I also have to be very aware of my own individual career and, having worked so hard to get England recognition in the last year – at both Test and one-day international level – I must also be fair to myself and my ambitions to play a lot more for my country.

I still have two years left on my contract, so of course Kent can hold me to that if they want – as they can also do with other senior players under contract.

Hopefully, too, the development at the St Lawrence Ground can finally get under way in the next month or so, which will mean a bit more income for the club as they look towards next season.

It would be nice to think the core group of senior players can all help us move forward, although Amjad Khan's departure because the club felt they could not afford to keep him was a blow for everyone in that regard. As someone who has played with Amjad for many years, it is a shame that he will not be around the club in the future.

It has been a pleasure playing with him.

Meanwhile, in my own situation, I really need to be playing in a competitive team and not for an under-performing side, so it will be interesting to see what develops over the next few weeks and months.

This winter's England tour selections will also be very important for me. It was disappointing not be selected for the one-day internationals against Pakistan, but realistically I knew that Graeme Swann and Mike Yardy would get the nod for those games as they have been our two established spinners in limited-overs cricket for a while now and have enjoyed a lot of success.

Actually, I would like to think I have a better chance of being chosen for the Ashes Test squad than the England one-day squad at the moment.

Yardy has not so far been considered as a replacement – or partner – for Swann in the Test team, and that could mean the second spinner's position in the Ashes squad is probably between Monty Panesar, Adil Rashid and myself. And, as I have been seen as a like-for-like replacement for Swann, and having done reasonably well on my Test debut in Bangladesh earlier this year, I very much hope the selectors go for me.

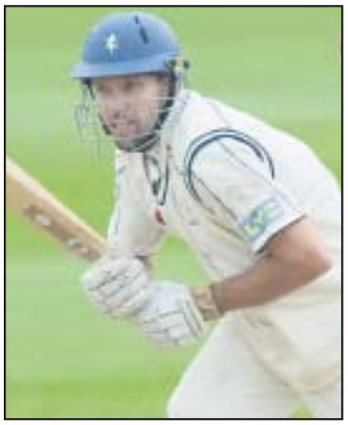
My own form has improved markedly in recent weeks – in both first-class and limited-overs cricket – as a direct result of getting more regular bowling out there in the middle, and that has been a real boost for me.

Taking five wickets in the Somerset second innings in the championship match during Canterbury Week in early August was a big fillip, and I've also felt in much better form in the Clydesdale Bank 40-over games recently. In fact, in winning our last five matches in that competition, we were left to rue a couple of washed-out games earlier in the season.

Otherwise, we could easily have made the semi-finals, which would have been a huge achievement with what has been a depleted squad through injuries, unavailability and also with the events currently surrounding the club off the field.

• ***James Tredwell, the Kent and England all-rounder, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists***

AMBITIOUS: James Tredwell hopes Kent can avoid relegation and that he can secure a place on England's winter tour



TARGET: Batsman Martin van Jaarsveld

Jarra remaining tight-lipped over Lancs rumours

KENT vice-captain Martin van Jaarsveld has refused to comment about speculation linking him with a move to Lancashire.

The county's leading run scorer in the championship signed a three-year deal to stay at Kent at the end of last season, despite an approach from Surrey to captain their newly-formed side.

It recently emerged that Lancashire, who have been keen on signing him in the past, are again interested in the 36-year-old batsman. With van Jaarsveld's wife's family living in the Red Rose county, the South African is believed to be interested in moving up north in the future.

It's not clear at this stage whether a deal will come off and when pressed on the speculation this week, all he would say was: "At this stage I can't comment on any of that."

Having persuaded van Jaarsveld to sign a contract to stay until 2012 only last year, Kent are keen to keep one of their prized assets who has consistently scored more than 1,000 runs a season since joining the county in 2005.

He admitted that next season at St Lawrence will be difficult with a squad smaller than the one that took to field, but was optimistic about hopes of bringing in an overseas player.

He said: "It's hard to say [if Kent will be competitive] and also I'd say next year is a long way away. You never know, there might be a little bit of spare cash floating around for an overseas but it's going to be pretty tough.

"With a small squad and a couple of injuries our bowling could be really thin, so it could be really tough next year."

Stevo leaves door open for offers

KEY all-rounder Darren Stevens will be a keen observer of Kent's winter activity after admitting he does not want to see out the remainder of his career in a struggling side, ***writes Glenn Pearson***.

The 34-year-old has been the side's standout performer this season, which hasn't gone unnoticed with big spenders Hampshire believed to have expressed an interest in the all-rounder.

Stevens, who is out of contract at the end of next season, said he wants to remain at Kent, but has concerns about the county starting next season with just a 15-man squad.

"I've had a good year, but I haven't spoken to anybody [at Hampshire] but I'm sure, and I'd hope, there are other clubs interested in me," he told Kent on Sunday. "But I've still got another year left on my contract at Kent and at the minute I'm still here.

"I love being here, they gave me a second burst at county cricket and it's gone really well for me. But the big thing is we all want to be looking to win games and I want to be winning trophies.

"The club have got to look at getting more players in, but the word on the grapevine is the club haven't got any money to bring in any more players. If that's all we have got next year then it's going to be a hard slog for us.

"If we have 15 players we might compete for three months of the year, for the last three or four we're not. Players need to be rotated, especially seamers.

"If there are one or two injuries we could be down to 12 players and you can't run a cricket side on that. That's where I feel for Keysey as captain and Paul Farbrace as coach."

Stevens, who played for the England Lions this summer, has been asked to open the bowling since Amjad Khan was released at the end of last month, and bowled 15 overs off the reel in the championship game against Hampshire this week.

While he has been happy to do his share of the bowling to help Kent's threadbare seam attack, he feels it's had an effect on his batting in the second half of the season.

He said: "It's not been great for my runs for the side, but Keysey has asked me to do a job and I've done it.

"I've really enjoyed it but the fact is I shouldn't be doing it – Amjad should be doing it or Robbie Joseph, but he's injured.

SUPERB SEASON: Darren Stevens

"I'm a medium pace bowler who should probably be bowling seven to 13 overs maximum a day, not 15 over spells."

STABILITY NEEDED TO AVOID FURTHER EXITS

Kent coach set for huge winter talks to allay player fears

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT head coach Paul Farbrace will meet with six of the club's bright prospects at the end of the season to persuade them to stay, but fears they could repeat Amjad Khan's recent exit and leave next year.

Joe Denly, Sam Northeast, Darren Stevens, Matt Coles, Alex Blake and James Goodman are all out of contract at the end of next season, which means counties would be free to approach them next summer.

Khan's release, because Kent couldn't make a "meaningful offer", has unsettled some in the St Lawrence dressing room, while rumours are now circulating about the future of Martin van Jaarsveld, James Tredwell and Stevens.

It leaves the likes of Farbrace, skipper Rob Key and coach Simon Willis with a crucial job once the season comes to a close next week, in trying to encourage the squad to stay and commit to Kent.

Farbrace and Key will also have to budget for a squad of just 15 players next season, which means no additions to the playing staff over the course of the winter and no overseas cricketer.

The coach admits next year the club could be in the same situation as they were with Khan, but is hopeful the squad will remain together and see the county through a tough period on and off the field.

Farbrace said: "I think next year we will have a few players out of contract and I think the fear is that we have to convince them through things happening on and off the field that this is the club to be at and we've all got a part to play in that.

"We all want to keep our best players and the likes of Denly, Northeast, Coles and Blake are all people that could say 'if we're not going to be developing as a club and not going forward and competing, is this really the place I want to play?' I can understand their logic, but at the same time you would hope they can see an opportunity. It's up to all of us at the club to convince those blokes, not through words but through actions, that this is the place to be."

Farbrace said the club must be "clear and up front" with members and supporters about the impact financial pressure off the field will bring and that it is going to be an equally tough period on it as well, which may mean a switch of emphasis in terms of which competitions are prioritised next year. No overseas and a squad of 15 doesn't leave much room for injuries next summer, but Farbrace is keen to keep his squad together and admits it's going to be a "huge" winter for the club.

He said: "There's no point in trying to hide the situation, I think we've got to be open and honest and say this is where we are heading and we've got to make the most of it. We are going to need everybody's help, on and off the pitch.

"The club needs stability, it doesn't need rumour which unfortunately is happening, but because of our financial position people are dreaming up all sorts of stuff. The bottom line is we want to keep our best players, we want to keep everyone in contract and we are trying to talk to all of the boys out of contract at the end of next year."

Kent face Yorkshire in their final game of the season on Monday.

Picture: ADY KERRY

MEETING: Matt Coles (left) and coach Paul Farbrace (right) will hold winter talks

SEE INSIDE for our **EXCLUSIVE** column with James Tredwell on his future, as well as the latest with Martin van Jaarsveld and Darren Stevens on rumours of interest from Lancashire and Hampshire

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Team USA's pre-Olympics visit to check out track

THE UNITED States are among the countries to send delegations to inspect facilities in Kent this summer with a view to training in the county ahead of the London Olympics.

We revealed last month Kent had twice as many training camp deals agreed than any other county and the number is likely to increase sharply in the next few months.

Ashford is yet to finalise a deal, but is attracting a lot of interest for its four pre-approved training sites – Julie Rose Stadium, the Stour Centre, Great Chart Golf Club and Chilham Park.

A delegation from Uganda was shown round on Monday, becoming the seventh country to view the facilities.

The most eye-catching visit has been from the United States, who sent a team to look at all four training venues in July. As one of the biggest Olympic teams they are expected to take some of the country's top facilities, with their track and field team signing an agreement with Birmingham.

Despite this Cllr Paul Bartlett, of Ashford council, felt it was a huge compliment for the town to even be considered.

He said: "We haven't had any feedback from them as to what they thought, but at the time they did say they were particularly impressed with the Julie Rose Stadium.

"A lot of their people will go [to Birmingham] but they are looking at other venues. They have an enormous team. I understand one single venue is going to struggle with the size of team they hope to send.

"They are keeping their options open, but also need a plan that's flexible and be able to accommodate last-minute changes."

INSPECTION: The Julie Rose Stadium was visited by a team of USA Olympic delegates

Ashford is extremely well placed to attract international teams and with the high-speed rail link it is possible to go from the Stour Centre to the Olympic Stadium in 31 minutes.

Canada and New Zealand have also toured the town and Bartlett believes the interest will only heighten in the next few months.

He said: "Most of the visits have been in the last six to eight weeks. I would be disappointed if we didn't have at least the same number between now and Christmas.

"We have some top-class facilities that can be used by teams in preparation for the Games and we would be delighted to share them with as many as possible."

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